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Winner/National Magazine Award
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Award Winner/Feature

3-2-1 Contact (ISSN 0195-4105) is a publication of the Children's Television Workshop, published ten times during the year, monthly except for February and August. © 1993 Children's Television Workshop. All rights reserved. All contents owned by the Children's Television Workshop and may not be reprinted without permission. U.S.P.S. Pub. # 00594. 3-2-1 Contact is a trademark and a service mark of the Children's Television Workshop. Printed in the U.S.A. Number 133, Jan/Feb 1993. Editorial offices: One Lincoln Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10023. Send subscription orders to: 3-2-1 Contact, P.O. Box 53051, Boulder, CO 80322-3051. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: 3-2-1 Contact, P.O. Box 53051, Boulder, CO 80322-3051 (including label from cover of magazine). Subscriptions: 1 year U.S.A. \$16.97. Canada and other countries add \$6. GST Registration number 124706888. Canadian Second Class Mail Reg. # 9514. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. Bulk copy rates to schools and other institutions available on request.

FEATURES

- 10** Kids Speak Out
About Prejudice
- 14** Go With the Floe:
Scientists Camp Out
on a Giant Piece of Ice
- 18** Why Didn't I
Think of That?
An Invention
Convention for Kids
- 20** Looney Tuner:
A CONTACT
Puzzle Poster
- 24** What Do You Nose?
A Breathtaking Quiz



14



18

SQUARE ONE TV

- 32** Super Sticky Puzzles
- 34** Beverly Hillbillies 90210:
A Square One Comic
- 36** Count Down!
A Numbers
Crossword Puzzle



32

DEPARTMENTS

- TNT Newsblasts **2**
- Any Questions? **4**
- Future File **6**
- Mail **7**
- Factoids **8**
- Contact Lens **27**
- The Time Team **28**
- Contact Contest **37**

- Extra! **38**
- Did It **40**

ON OUR COVER

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Toad Away

Some people in Australia will try anything to get a few yuks: golf clubs, trucks, air rifles, even freezers! Actually, they're not using these things to get laughs. They're for getting a type of toad called a Yuk.

These slimy cane toads are spreading across Australia at a rate of 17 miles a year. Yuks were first brought over from Hawaii nearly 60 years ago to wipe out beetles. Now the Yuks are elbowing out other wildlife. And nothing seems to stop them.

Any animals that try eating the toad—birds, cats, dogs, snakes—die before they can swallow it. That's because the toad squirts a deadly poison from glands on its back.

People aren't having much luck getting rid of the Yuks, either. They shoot them with air rifles, only to see the toads

recover and hop away. They freeze the toads—and later discover the slimy things have warmed up again. Even running them over in a truck doesn't always work!

"When the toad is run over, its intestines pop out of its mouth," explains toad expert Greg Czechura. "But after a few minutes it swallows its guts and hops off." Yuck!

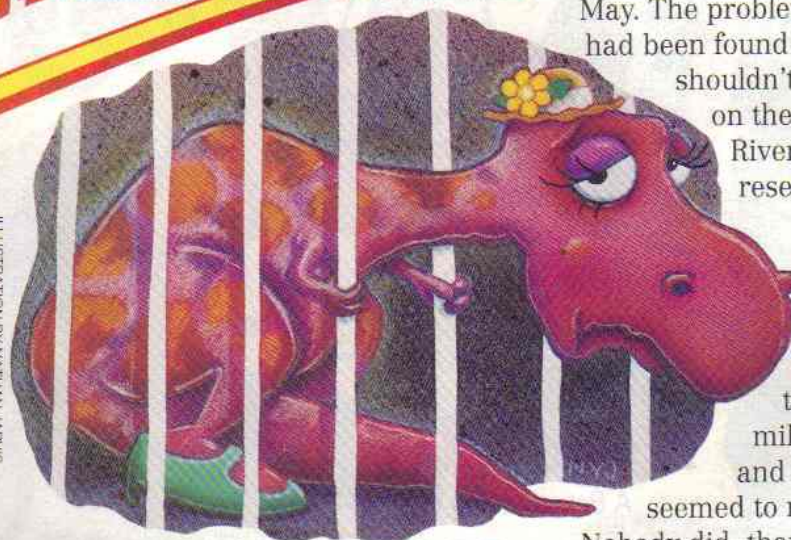
Story suggested by Nicole Haddad, Troy, MI.



PHOTO: KLAUS UHLERHUT/ANIMALS



ILLUSTRATION BY NATHAN JARVIS



Sue for Sue?

She's big. She's bad. She's under arrest. We're not talking about a criminal on *America's Most Wanted*. We're talking about a dinosaur skeleton named "Sue"!

The FBI seized Sue last May. The problem was, she had been found where she shouldn't have been: on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe reservation.

But how was Sue to know? After all, she'd been there for 65 million years and nobody seemed to mind.

Nobody did, that is, until scientists dug her up two years ago. (See Sept. '92 issue.) They moved the *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton to the Black Hills Institute in South Dakota. And that's when the trouble began.

The U.S. government says only it could give permission to unearth Sue, since she was found on federal property. The Sioux say they own Sue. And the scientists say they legally paid for the right to dig up her bones. Who's right? It may take years in court to find out.

In the meantime, the FBI has Sue under careful guard, with no visitors allowed. And that's rattling lots of *scientists'* bones!

Mist Opportunity

When is it okay to drink a glass of cloudy water? When that water is made from clouds! Scientists in Chungungo,



PHOTO: ROBERT S. SCHEMENAU

Chile (a nation in South America), have found a way to turn clouds into drinking water. And villagers there are drinking it up. Chungungo, a small fishing

village, now casts nets for fog on top of *El Tofo*, a 2,600-foot mountain. These nets are made of huge sheets of plastic mesh. They are set along the mountain ridge to capture the fog.

When fog from the Pacific Ocean rolls in, it passes through the nets. As fog droplets touch the nets, they stick and form a water drop.

Soon thousands of drops run down the net into a bin. It collects the water and sends it into pipes. Gravity then pulls the water down the mountain into tanks near the village.

The nets can collect 700 gallons of water on a foggy day. Now the village has clean drinking water for the first time in years. So nobody there is glum when it's gloomy!

Moonstruck

What rhymes with moon? Alexander Abian's answer might be: *Kaboom!*

Abian, a math professor at Iowa State University, wants to blow up the moon. Don't worry, it'll never happen—even though Abian thinks Earth would be better off without it. He claims that blasting the moon would end nasty weather.

According to Abian's math, if some pieces of the exploded moon landed on Earth's southern hemisphere, the planet would no longer tilt on its axis. Then, the amount of sunlight hitting the globe would be



the same everywhere. So there wouldn't be a change of seasons—just spring all year.

No more storms, Abian declares. And deserts and ice-capped regions would bloom.

Even if it *were* possible to untile the Earth, scientists think it's a ridiculous idea. They say many animals might not survive in a world without deserts or ice.

Abian agrees that there'd be those who'd miss the moon. So maybe, he says, it could be split in two: Half could fall to Earth and the other half could stay put. But luckily, this spacey idea doesn't have half a chance!

Stick Figures

Lions and tigers and bears! Oh my! When it comes to wood carving, Deborah Lacayo is the real wizard of odd.

Lacayo is very picky about her work. She has to be: She carves the tips of toothpicks! Using a surgical scalpel as a knife and a dog whisker as a paintbrush, Lacayo makes tiny characters that are only three-eighths of an inch high.

They may be mini, but they come with mega price tags. For \$2,500, you can collect the whole set of characters from the *Wizard of Oz* or from *Robin Hood*! Take your pick.



PHOTO: DEBORAH LACAYO



So What's New?

You tell us and you'll get a nifty CONTACT T-shirt—if we print your story. Send us any science story from the news that you think our readers would like to know about. (Be sure to tell us your T-shirt size and where you heard the story.)

Send to:

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PHOTO: WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

ANY QUESTIONS?

By Christina Wilsdon

HOW

DO ANIMALS GET RABIES?

Animals get rabies when they're bitten by other animals that have rabies. Rabies is caused by a virus—a vicious one. In fact, the word “rabies” comes from a Latin word for “fury”—as in “furious”!

The disease got its name because it makes sick animals attack without fear. It infects the brain, making rabid animals act crazy. It can also paralyze throat muscles. That's why rabid animals foam at the mouth: They can't swallow water—not even their own saliva!

Rabies sounds terrible—and it is. The good news is that we have ways to fight it. Government agencies keep a close watch on wildlife so they can control a rabies outbreak. And a person who is bitten by a rabid animal can get life-saving shots.

Cats and dogs should get rabies shots every year. That way, they're safe from rabies—and their owners will be, too.

Question sent in by Katie Reif, Westchester, IL.

WHY

DO PEOPLE SNORE?

Some people walk in their sleep. Some talk in their sleep. And some saw logs in their sleep! “Sawing logs” is another way of saying “snoring”—and some sleepers definitely sound like chain saws!

People often snore when they breathe in air through their mouths while they sleep. The air makes soft parts of the roof of the mouth, near the throat, vibrate. (Try some fake snoring. What you feel moving near your throat is your soft palate.)

This vibrating may make the lips, the cheeks, and the uvula shake, too. (Your uvula is that funny thing hanging down from the back of your mouth.)

Men snore more than women. Grown-ups snore more than kids. And snoozers who sleep on their backs snore more than those who don't. Many animals snore, too. Those are the scores in the snore wars!

Question sent in by Mi'shelle Johns, Texas City, TX.

Hospital



HOW

DO DIAMONDS FORM?

Now *that's* a gem of a question! Millions of years ago, diamonds formed as the Earth began to cool. (At that time, hot liquid rock bubbled below the Earth's outer crust.)

Because of the high temperatures and great pressure beneath the Earth's surface, an element called carbon became packed together. When the carbon was crunched this tight, it formed clear crystals. And that's exactly what a diamond is: a crystal of pure carbon.

In a diamond crystal, carbon atoms are tightly linked. This makes the diamond the hardest mineral in the world—so hard, only a diamond can cut another diamond!

But why cut such a jewel? Believe it or not, when a diamond is found, it's dull and rough. To make it sparkle, its surface has to be cut and polished. That way, when light hits it, the light can bend and reflect back into the stone. So it's the light that makes it look bright!

Question sent in by Jana Marie Jenkins, Talking Rock, GA.



WHAT

IS A LASER?

The word "laser" stands for a bunch of scientific words. The first two letters stand for "light amplification." And the last three letters for "stimulated emission of radiation." Whew!

In other words, a laser amplifies, or intensifies, light. A laser can take a weak beam of light and make it more powerful. Some of these light beams are so strong that—in less than a second—they can burn tiny holes in steel!

A laser beam is powerful because all its light rays travel in the same direction, without spreading out. Think of it like water running through a pipe. (Light rays in ordinary light travel in different directions, like water spraying from a fountain.) A laser beam's rays are all exactly the same wavelength, too. So, the rays can pulse together to form a bright, strong beam.

Different kinds of lasers are already being used for everyday purposes, such as playing CDs, cutting metal and performing surgery. And who knows? Someday people may even shave with lasers, not razors!

Question sent in by Angela Jaeckel, Racine, WI.

**Do you have a question
that no one seems able to answer?
Why not ask us? Write to:
Any Questions? 3-2-1
Contact, P.O. Box 40, Vernon,
NJ 07462**

FUTURE FILE

What's happening? A new CONTACT column, that's what. It's all about the cool stuff experts predict will happen in your future. When can you look forward to more of these sneak peeks? In—when else?—the future!

HOUSE IT GOING?

Snack time! You open the refrigerator to grab a cold soda—but uh-oh. The refrigerator is broken.

Who you gonna call? Nobody, say experts at the National Home Builders Association. They are designing appliances that will someday “think” for themselves. When something is broken, the appliance figures out the problem and calls a repair person. All *you* do is open the front door to let her in!

But soon you won't even have to do that. Why? In the house of the future, keys and locks will be a thing of the past. To open your door, you'll place your palm on a computer screen. The computer will compare your hand to a digital description of your hand stored in its memory. If the “handprints” match, the door will automatically open.

“You can program your front door to let only certain people walk in,” Tom Kelly told CONTACT. He works for a company in Palo Alto, CA, that is making the hand scanners. Kelly says the scanners will be out in the near future. How near? Try 1995!

Once you get in the door, don't be surprised to see talking furniture. Imagine this: You've just come back from a long trip to the moon. You want to veg in front of the TV. But your neighbors show up with *their* vaca-

tion videos. Suddenly, your chair (your chair?) rushes to your defense. “Can't you see that we're busy right now?” it asks pleasantly.

Enough said. After your neighbors leave, you flip on the TV. But *which* TV? In the house of the future, you can choose

butler who could order pizza for you? “Butler-in-a-box” will be able to do just that and much more.

This butler will be programmed to respond only to its owners' voices. That way, if a burglar breaks into your house, the butler will politely say, “Hello. May I



between a TV that follows you, room to room. Or a flat TV that hangs on your wall like a painting.

Believe it or not, say experts at the World Future Society, these household items may soon be as common as pizza deliveries.

Speaking of pizza, how would you like a voice-activated robot

help you?” If the burglar doesn't quickly respond with the right password, the robot will throw a huge fit. How? By turning on everything in the house—the lights, the TV, the stereo and the alarm. Maybe it will even write down a description of the getaway car!

—Wendy Williams

ILLUSTRATION BY NED SHAW



A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME

Dear CONTACT,

In the Square One "Brilliant Beach Puzzles," (June '92), you said that the answer for the third ball in "Have a Ball!" is 90. But there's another way to get a different answer.

For the ball on the left, you could get the center number (16) by doing this to the outer numbers: $(2+2) \times 1 \times 4 = 16$. The same is true for the top example: $(5+0) \times 5 \times 0 = 0$. Doing it this way, here's the answer for the third problem: $(5+3) \times 2 \times 3 = 48$. So is my answer also correct?

Jill Elizabeth Munz
Greer, SC

Yes, both answers are right. Thanks for showing us another way to "have a ball."

WISHES COME TRUE

Dear CONTACT,

I really like contests, but lately you haven't had any. Do you think you could come up with a few for the next issues?

Thank you!

Cassie E. Hodge

Cassie, your wish is our command! Beginning with this issue, CONTACT will run a different contest each month. Be sure to enter, because you can win some great prizes!

HOT STUFF

Dear CONTACT,

In your September 1992 issue, a Factoid states that "Lightning bolts are about 9,000,000 degrees F. That's more than three times the temperature of the sun's surface."

But according to a book I read, the sun's surface temperature is actually about 10,000 degrees F. This makes a lightning bolt close to 1,000 times hotter than the surface of the sun.

Randy Souza
Williamstown, MA

Oops! Looks like we were wrong. But in a flash we called meteorologist (weather expert) Joe Rao. He told us that the temperature of a lightning bolt is about 50,000 degrees F. So, this makes a bolt of lightning about five times hotter. Thanks for your enlightening letter, Randy.

CREATURE FEATURED

Dear CONTACT,

In the July/August issue of CONTACT, you had another exciting Time Team story ("Jungle Jam"). But tell me, what was that strange creature that Jenny and Sean encountered in the rain forest? Jenny said it was a prehistoric guinea pig. But it wasn't really a prehistoric guinea pig, was it?

Lee Hendricks
Twin Falls, ID

No, Lee. As you remember, the Time Team wasn't really in the past. They were in the rain forest of 1995. The grunting creature chasing them was a capybara, a giant rodent that lives in Central and South America. And it can weigh over 100 pounds!

WE WANT MAIL!

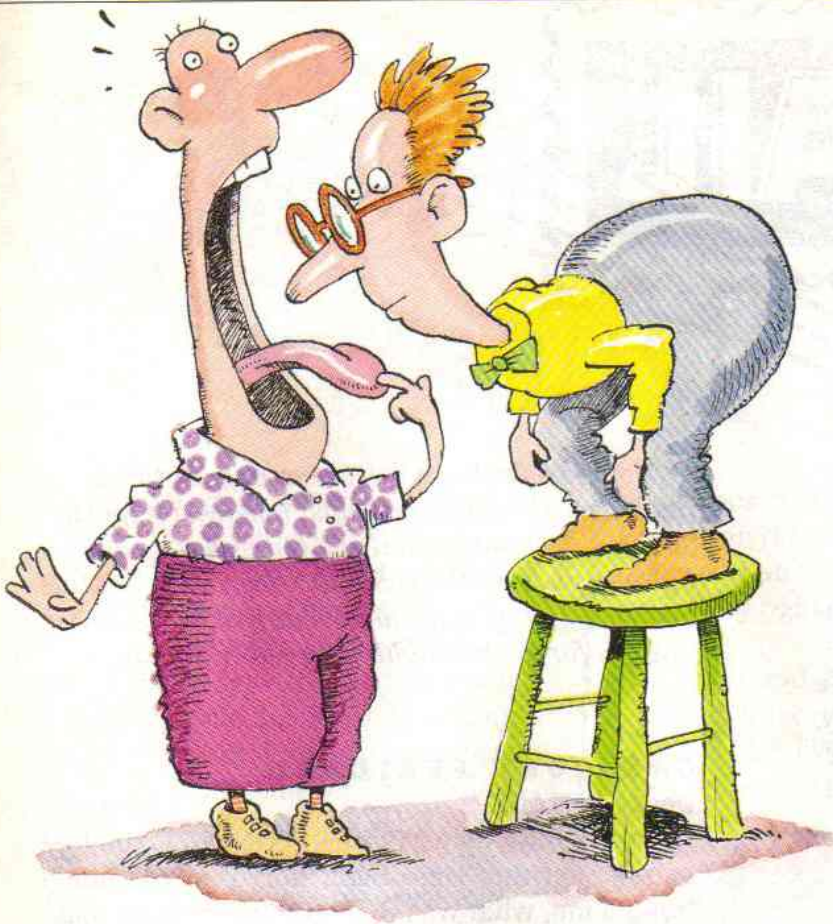
Dear Readers

We love hearing from you. Your questions and ideas help us make CONTACT a better magazine. So why not drop us a line? We can't answer every letter, but we do read them all. Send your mail to:

3-2-1 CONTACT: Letters
P.O. Box 40
Vernon, NJ 07462



FACT

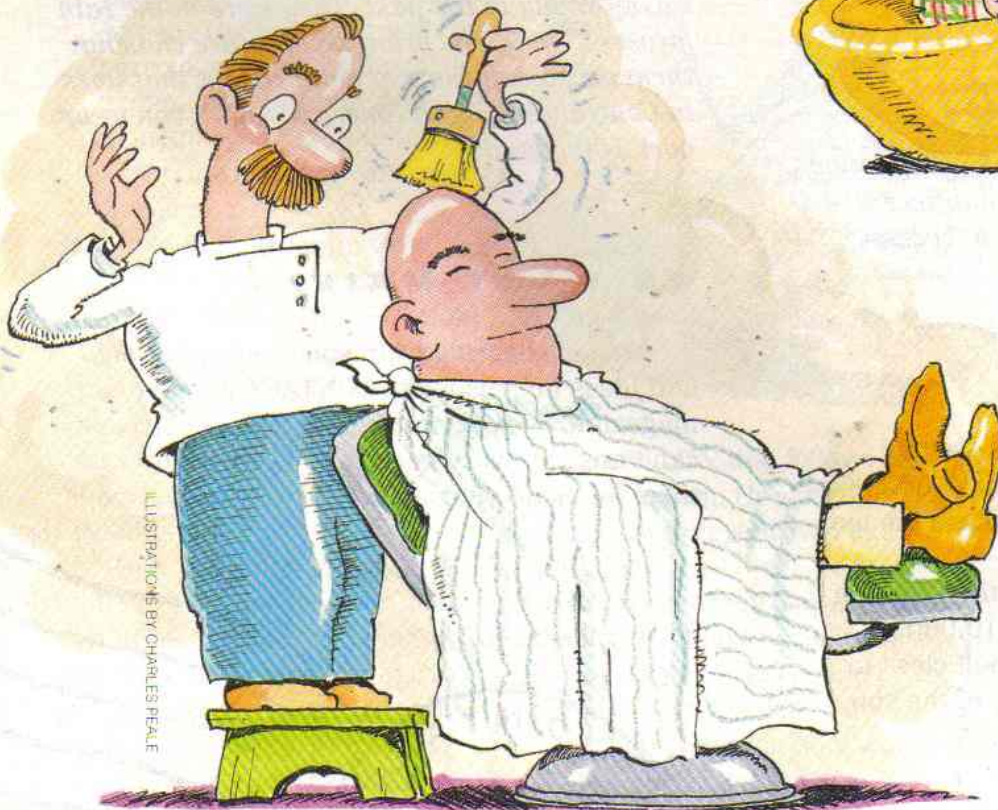


On average, humans have 9,000 taste buds in their mouths, tongues and throats.

More redheads are born in Scotland than in any other part of the world.



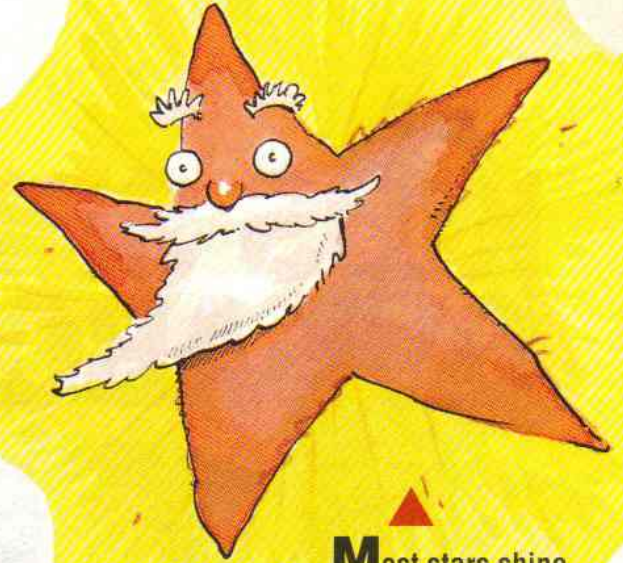
Seventy-five percent of house dust is dead skin cells.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLES PEALE

Olds

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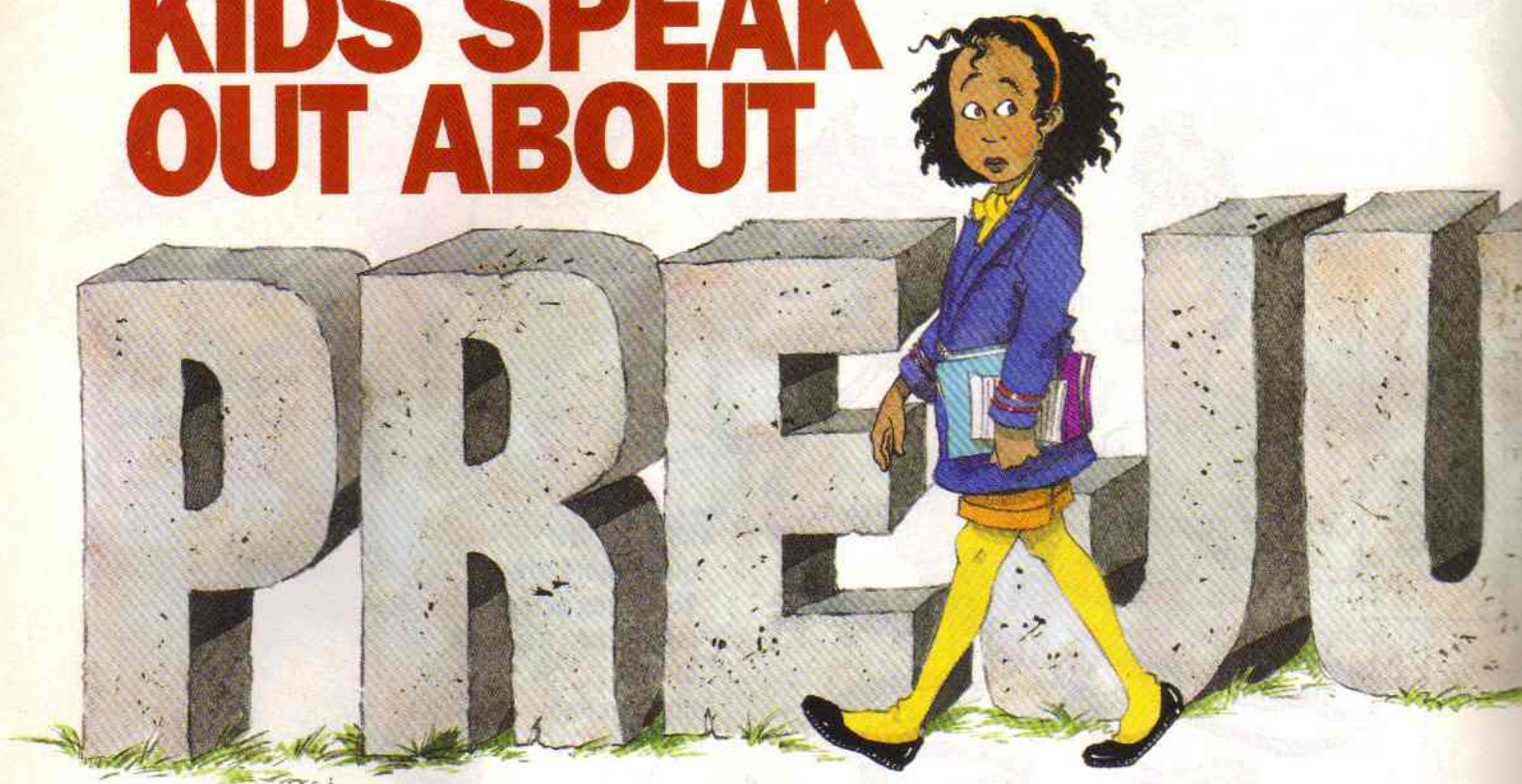
Most stars shine for at least 10 billion years.

The eyes of a giant squid are 15 inches across—larger than the eyes of any other animal.

California condors can fly 10 miles without flapping their wings.



KIDS SPEAK OUT ABOUT



In June 1991, we asked our readers to create a “wish list” for the world. One wish topped many kids’ lists. As one reader put it, “I wish for an end to prejudice. People are all equal. We are all the same on the inside.”

Prejudice is a very important problem. CONTACT wanted to know what kids thought about it. So we asked a group of boys and girls between the ages of eight and 13 to tell us about prejudice, why it happens and what kids can do about it.

On a recent afternoon, we met with Greg Hartman, Adeena Calyo, Mitchell Shuster, Michelle Sohn, Matt Glotzer, Jackie Gluck, Leslie Narvaez, Danielle Davis, Alissa Schechter, Carlos Acevedo, Hubert Urruttia, Rohit Kapul and Tammy Piwowar. The kids live in New York and New Jersey. Here’s what they had to say.

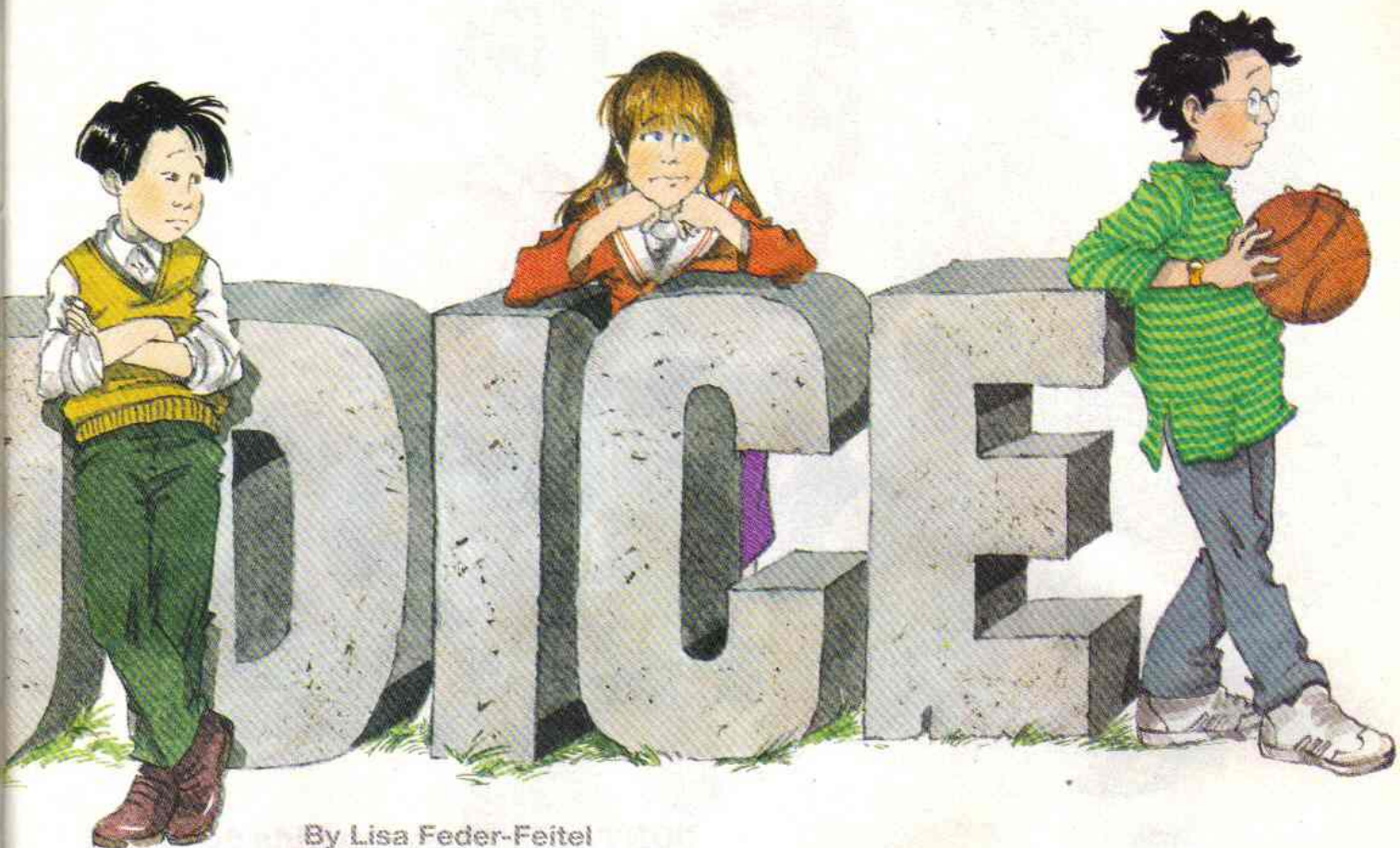
CONTACT: What is prejudice?

Greg: It’s when you think that everyone should be just like you, that there should be no other skin color than your own. If I were prejudiced against you, I might start calling you names just because you’re black and I’m white.

Adeena: Some people think that just because we don’t all have the same skin color, we’re not equal. Then they start hating each other because they’re not like each other.

Mitchell: It’s not just skin color—it can be your religion, your family, your hair color—almost anything that’s different.

Michelle: Prejudice means not liking somebody without knowing anything about them.



By Lisa Feder-Feitel

CONTACT: Why do people act in a prejudiced way towards others?

Matt: They want to feel better than everyone else. Like they're real hotshots, on top of the world.

Mitchell: They know that their victims can't do anything about it. Your skin color or your ethnic group is something that's part of you. You can't change it. Other people use it as a target to tease you.

Jackie: They do it because they want a reaction. They want the attention for themselves.

Leslie: The worst part is that when prejudiced people talk about the people they hate, other people hear it and they might begin to believe it, too.

CONTACT: How do you think kids learn about prejudice?

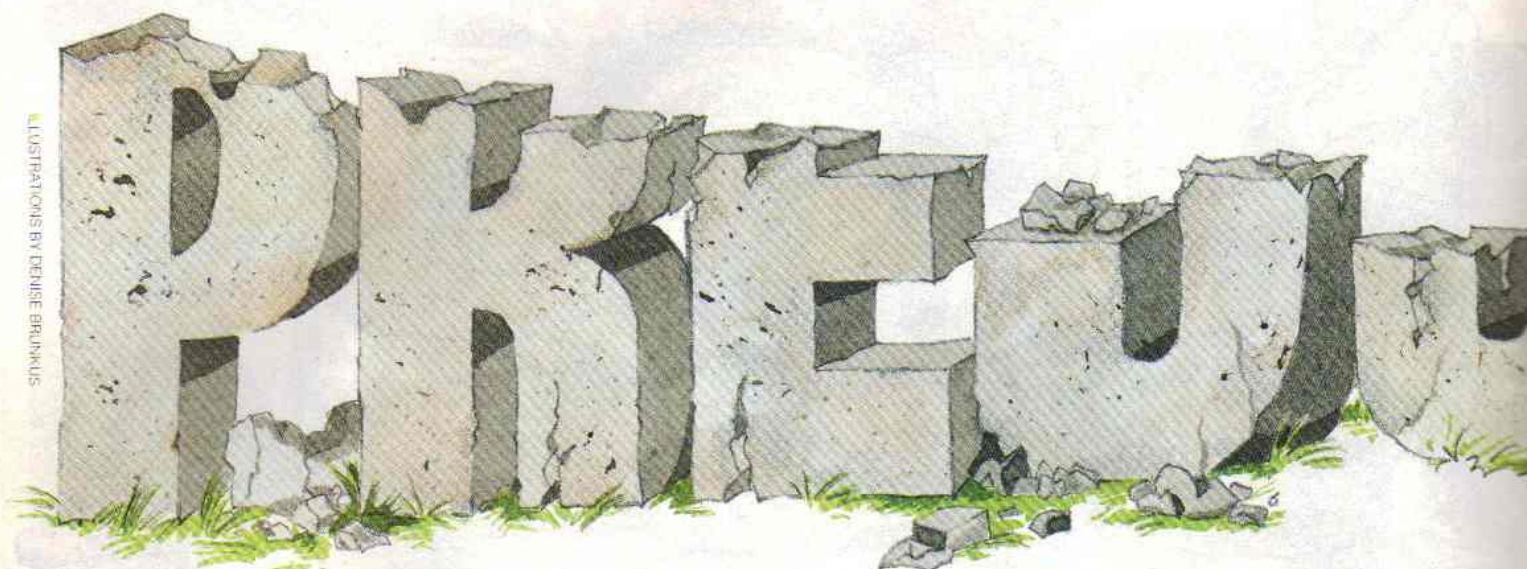
Danielle: We learn it from adults. We follow what our parents teach us.

Alissa: It's not always adults that kids learn from—sometimes they copy each other. My little sister copies everything that my middle sister does—her clothing, her hair, even her attitudes.

Mitchell: People copy from history, too. Sometimes, when they're prejudiced, they'll burn crosses, like the Ku Klux Klan did, or set fires or paint swastikas, like Hitler did.

CONTACT: How do you think it makes people feel to be the targets of prejudice?

Greg: Really, really bad. I know that when I get teased—about my height, weight, the way I look—I feel like dirt.



Matt: When I get teased I feel so angry that I want to tease back.

Mitchell: When I feel that kind of anger, I can't control myself. I start crying and I want to pound whoever is doing this to me.

CONTACT: What do you think kids can do about prejudice when it happens to them?

Carlos: I just went through this with a black friend of mine. A white kid came over and asked me to play, but he didn't want my friend to come along—because he's black, this guy said. It was weird for me, because I'm not white or black—I'm Latino. I stuck with my black friend and told the other guy that WE couldn't play.

Hubert: You can just ignore them.

Leslie: Sometimes when you ignore them, they stop, because it's no fun for them.

CONTACT: What can kids do to end prejudice?

Alissa: I think that when you're a kid you shouldn't start being prejudiced, because then when you become an adult you keep that thought in your mind. Then you tell your kids and it starts all over again.

Greg: The only thing that a kid can do is to try and help people understand that even though people look different, we're all human.

Rohit: You can stand up for the person who's being picked on. You can tell the prejudiced person that you don't feel that way.

Tammy: Or you can say: How'd you like it if someone did this to you? How would you feel?

Mitchell: You should try to convince prejudiced people that they will be meeting people who are not exactly like them all their lives. So they might as well get to know other people—they may even end up liking them!



Just Between Us

Dr. William Cross talks to a lot of kids and their families about prejudice.

That's because Dr. Cross is a teacher and a psychologist—a person who helps people talk about and understand their feelings. We asked him for tips on how kids can make a difference in ending prejudice. Here's what he says:

Michelle defines prejudice better than I can: Prejudice means not liking somebody without knowing anything about them. For example, you may think someone of a certain color or religion always acts a certain way. Then you see someone of that color or religion. Without ever having talked to that person, you think you know just what he or she is like. Prejudiced people don't take the time or effort to find out about other people.

We learn about prejudice from our friends, our parents, TV and our own experiences. Books that show Native Americans as savages or only one race or sex as heroes teach us lessons in prejudice,

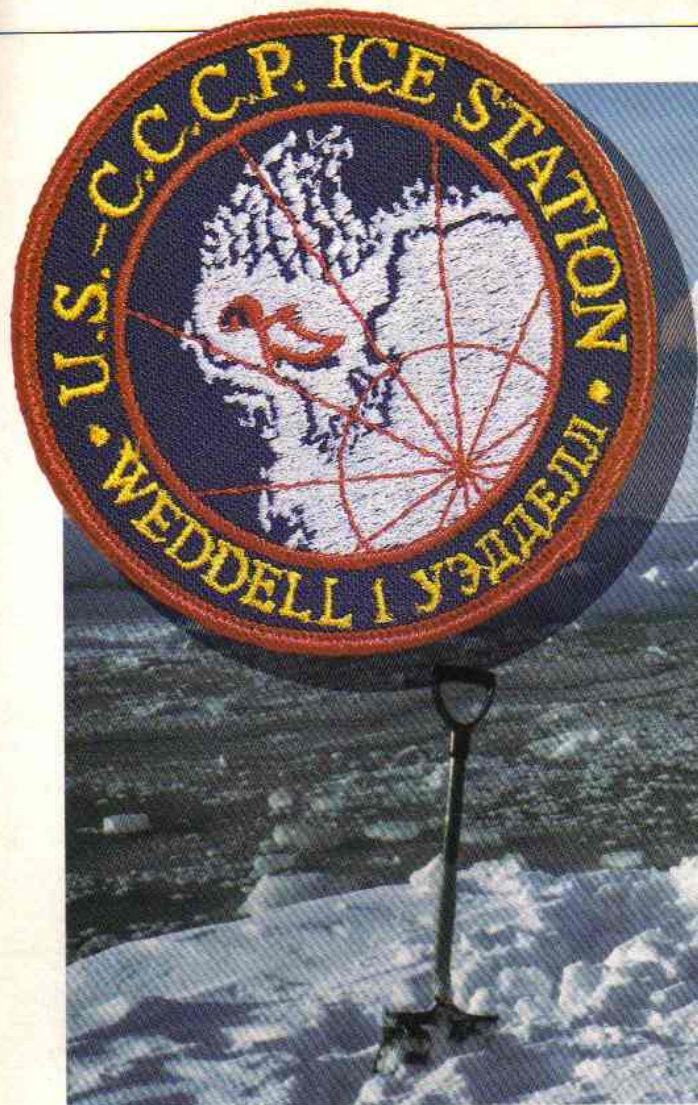
too. But we can *unlearn* these lessons. And we can teach ourselves and other kids some new lessons. Here are some ideas.

- Everyone is special. It's great that people are different, because it gives you a chance to learn new things—about other people's religions or foods or languages, for example. There's so much to know about everyone in the world!

- Understand the difference between dislike and prejudice. Say a girl pushes you, and she happens to be of another race. Remember: Her race is not why she pushed you. You dislike her for what she did, not what she looks like.

- Remember that one person can make a difference. As Rohit says, you can stand up for a person who's being picked on. You can make friends with one kid and change her life—and your own.

- Stand up and be heard. As Tammy points out, you can talk back to people who are prejudiced. Even if they don't hear you, other kids will. And it may give them the courage to think for—and stand up for—themselves. ♦



This scientist was living on the edge—of an ice floe.



GO WITH THE

Imagine living in a town of just 31 people. You—as well as everyone else—live in a tiny plywood hut. There's no indoor plumbing. Worst of all, the entire town is floating on a big block of ice! Why would you live there? To study the water, ice, atmosphere and animals of the Antarctic!

Welcome to the South Pole's first floating research station. Last winter, a crew of U.S. and Russian scientists "set sail" on an ice floe two miles long and one mile wide. Along with 80 tons of equipment, 31 women and men went on a five-month, 400-mile journey through the western Weddell Sea.

The waters of the Weddell Sea are packed with ice all year long. This ice has ended the journeys of many unlucky explorers. Ships have been trapped in it for over a year. Sometimes they have

even been crushed by the pressure of the ice. The Weddell Sea has always been a hard place to explore—and that's why it remains such a mysterious part of the ocean.

Why explore the Weddell Sea by ice? The Antarctic ice is so thick, it can even stop a huge icebreaker ship. Going with the floe was the easiest path to follow. As currents carried the floe 400 miles north, scientists on board looked for clues about how this area affects the world's weather.

An Ice Place

The Antarctic Ocean may seem far away from the weather in your backyard. But its ice and cold water affect the world's climate. Warm water and air from around the globe meet cold Antarctic water here. At this frozen place, weather changes.

Any changes in the atmosphere—such as ozone holes and the greenhouse effect—could affect this ice blanket and the Antarctic Ocean's temperature...and the Earth's climate. The Weddell Sea may hold answers to our weather.

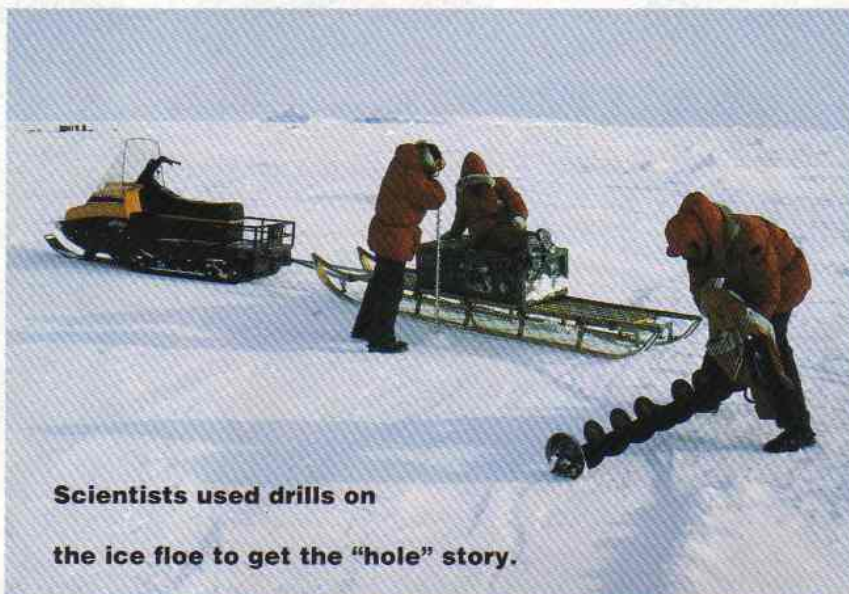
The scientists on the Weddell floe brought back new information to study. They also learned a lot about living on a giant ice cube at the bottom of the Earth. Summer temperatures get to be about 30 degrees—below zero! Winter temperatures drop to minus 80 degrees and even lower.

Douglas Martinson arrived on the floe in early March—during autumn in Antarctica. Martinson is an oceanographer—a person who studies oceans. (New crew members often flew in to replace people who left. Nobody had to stay for the entire trip. But there was always a crew of 31 on the floe.)

"I flew in and landed on an airstrip that was really just a flat section of ice and snow," Martinson told CONTACT. "It was white as far as I could see—with some icebergs about a mile away."

A number of places get colder than an ice floe in Antarctica, explained Martinson, but the winds aren't nearly as fierce as they are on a floe. They can gust up to 200 miles per hour. "If you're working outside, your face turns into a frozen mask," he says. "Moisture freezes on your beard and even your eyebrows and eyelashes."

Once, it was so cold out that it was impossible



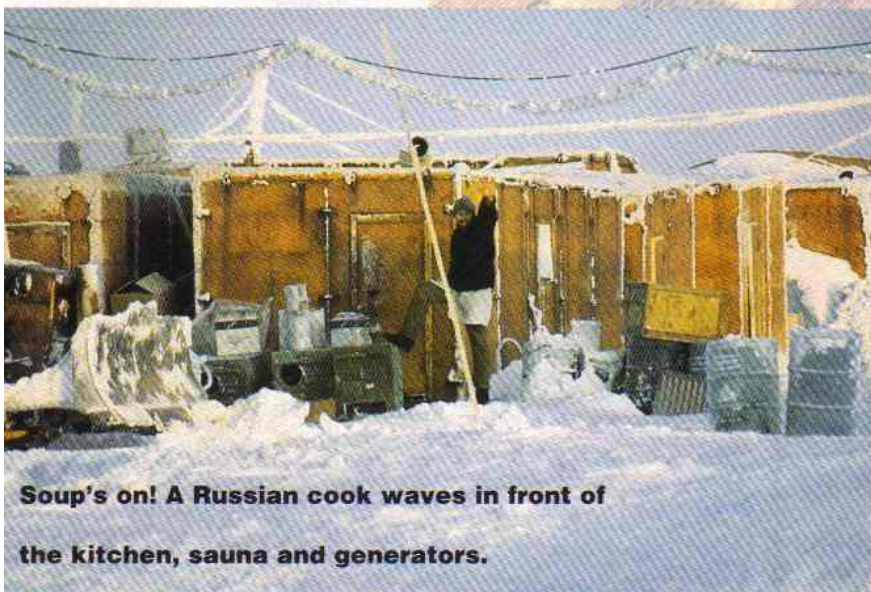
Scientists used drills on the ice floe to get the "hole" story.

PHOTO: HARTMUT HELLMER

By Christina Wilsdon

FLOE

SCIENTISTS CAMP OUT ON A GIANT PIECE OF ICE



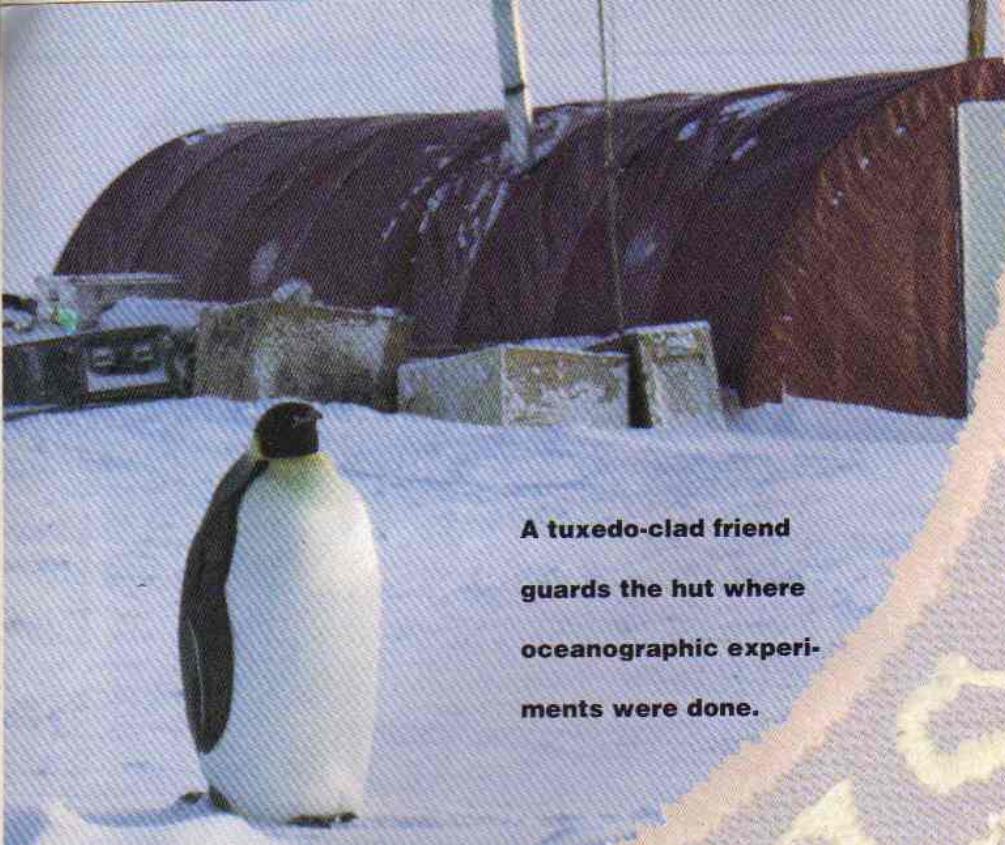
Soup's on! A Russian cook waves in front of the kitchen, sauna and generators.



Open wide!

Scientist Hartmut Hellmer couldn't.

His mouth was frozen shut!



A tuxedo-clad friend guards the hut where oceanographic experiments were done.

**Home sweet home!
An icebreaker
arrives to help break
down camp and take
the scientists home.**



to yawn! "My throat just cut off the action," he marvels. "My mouth was open to take a nice big gulp of air in a lazy yawn, but nothing happened! I felt like, hey! Who's in control here?"

On very stormy days, strong winds made it practically impossible to shut the door of the bathroom—an outhouse that faced the wind.

Friendly Neighbors

Martinson spent his first few nights in his equipment tent. That's when he met the Mysterious Night Visitor.

"I was sleeping on the floor," he recalls. "My head was five inches from a big hole in the floor. The hole went through the snow into the water. That's where we kept some equipment underwater. Then around three in the morning, I heard a noise like Darth Vader in an echo chamber!"

He inched forward to peer into the hole and found himself eye to eye with a very big...seal!

"He filled up the hole," laughs Martinson. "He'd come up for a breath of air. He sat there for 15 minutes, breathing away, then went back down."

Animal visitors were a welcome sight in the camp, especially penguins. "Emperor penguins would leap out of cracks in the ice and scoot

around the camp on their bellies," Martinson says. "One stood on top of a foot-high block of ice in front of a hut for three hours, looking around as if saying, 'What are you doing here?'"

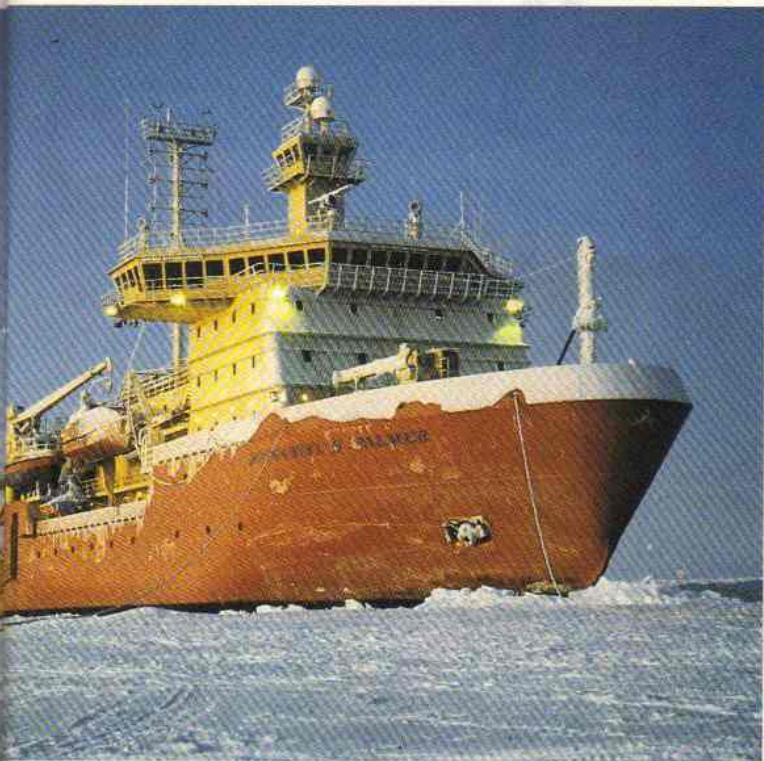
Hartmut Hellmer, who's also an oceanographer, remembers a lonely penguin who hung around some black fuel drums as if they were friends. "We also had some penguins standing in a line, each one looking over the shoulder of the guy in front, watching what a biologist was doing," he adds.

Frozen Dinners?

Food was another high point of the trip. "We cooked all sorts of meats, and there were always lots of vegetables," explains Martinson. "We didn't need refrigeration, needless to say."

Eating right is important in a cold climate. Just doing ordinary tasks is hard work in the Antarctic. Even washing up takes planning. Team members had to collect snow in buckets and melt it over pots in their huts and tents. It took about eight buckets of snow to make one bucket of water.

There wasn't much time for fun and games. The scientists worked all day and often late into the night. To get proper measurements of such things as underwater temperatures, equipment



had to be adjusted every hour—day and night. Sometimes they did relax in the “mess hut.” They baked cookies and watched movies on a VCR.

A VCR on an ice floe? It's true. A machine called a generator created electricity for everything on board, including computers and lights.

“Pretty soon you forget that you are drifting on an ice floe nine feet thick with more than 8,000 feet of water underneath you,” says Hellmer. “We sent data out by satellite and made telephone calls, which made us feel less alone.”

But any hint of trouble quickly reminded them just how fragile their base really was. “Once we lost a quarter of the floe during a major breakup of ice,” Hellmer remembers. “Luckily, it was only a corner. It never cracked through our camp.”

“You had to be alert for cracks,” Martinson agrees. “It's easy to treat ice and snow like solid ground, but if a crack develops—you could fall in.”

Homeward Bound

But there were no disasters on this ice floe journey. In early June 1992, the final camp cleared out. The U.S. team sailed off on a U.S. research icebreaker. Only some research equipment attached to buoys remained to travel with the ice. The team took back every bit of garbage, lots of information and many memories.

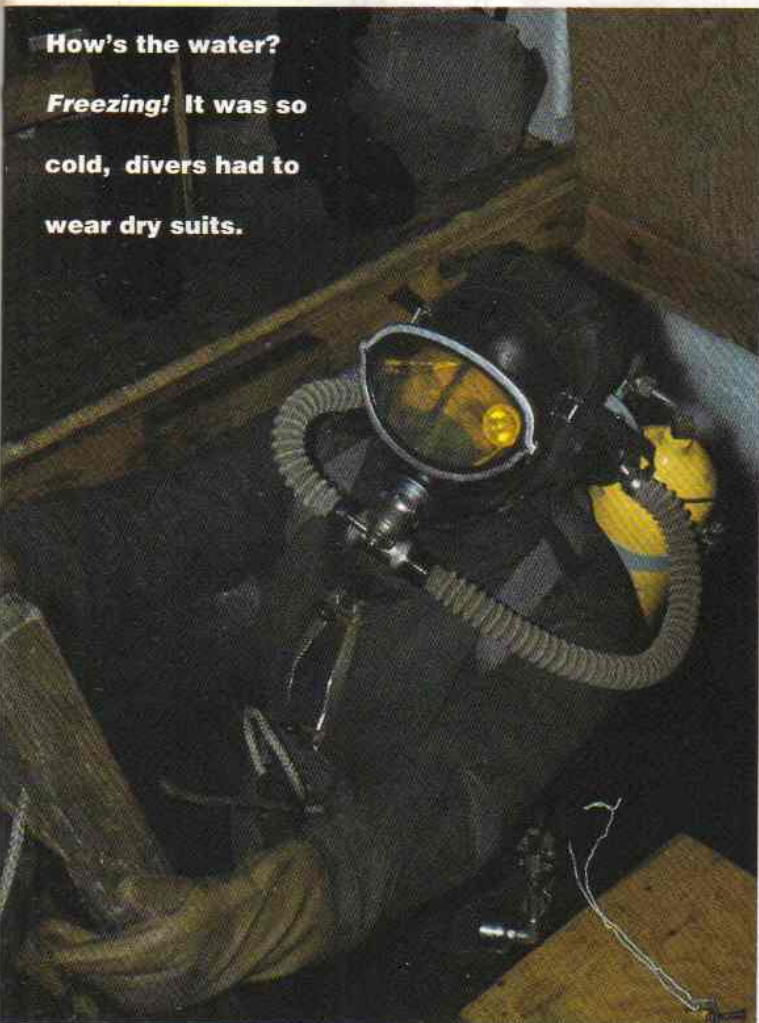
Hellmer remembers the day the ice floe cracked. “We were afraid another crack could happen, when suddenly, a whale showed up in one of the cracks!” he exclaims. “We forgot everything when we looked at that fantastic animal.”

As the icebreaker ship rammed and plowed its way through the ice, the scientists on board looked forward to seeing friends and family.

And, believe it or not, both Hellmer and Martinson couldn't wait to taste...ice cream! ♦

How's the water?

Freezing! It was so cold, divers had to wear dry suits.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DENNIS MOSHER

Why Didn't I Think of That?

AN INVENTION CONVENTION FOR KIDS

By Beth Chayet



Clint Lenz invented a neat seat.

Searching for the bathroom in the middle of the night has never been easy. For thousands of years, people have been finding ways to “go” in the dark. First came the candle. Then the flashlight. And more recently, the night light. But now, there’s an even brighter idea—the “Glow in the Dark Toilet Seat.”

“I was tired of stumbling through the dark, trying to find the toilet in the night. So I spray-painted a toilet seat with glow-in-the-dark paint,” Clint Lenz told CONTACT. He is a fourth grader from Lake Mills, WI. “This way, you don’t have to turn on the light and blind yourself when you go to the bathroom in the middle of the night. And by not using a night light, you don’t waste electricity.”

Clint thought his toilet seat was “an idea that couldn’t miss.” And he was right! His invention won a special award in the national Invent America! contest held last July in Washington, DC. The contest is open to all wanna be

Thomas Edisons, kindergarten through eighth grade. Its purpose is to get kids to

come up with their own inventions that solve everyday problems.

More Bright Ideas

A big problem that kids are concerned about is the environment. And on display at the invention convention were lots of ideas to help save the Earth. One was Todd Cooper's "Solar Powered Bike Light."

"When you ride your bike during the day, the light shines on the solar cells and charges up the two batteries. Then at night, when you need the light, you just switch it on," the sixth grader from Rome, GA, told CONTACT.

Other young inventors came up with Earth-friendly ideas. For example, the "Drought Stopper" recycles water that runs off lawns when they're watered. The run-off water is stored in an underground tank. The water is then pumped back into the sprinkler system to be used again. And "The Bio-Repencil" is a recycled pencil. It's made from shredded and boiled magazines molded around store-bought drawing lead.

There's nothing worse than coming up with a great idea—then discovering someone else thought it up first. One way to find out if another person already had your "brilliant" idea is to do research. National winner Aaron Lademan, a fourth grader from Columbia, MO, created the "Blaze Buster." It's a gadget that rings a loud alarm when a wood-burning stove gets too hot. Before he built it, he went to places that

made stoves. No "Blaze Buster" there. He also called his local fire chief, who had never heard of the idea. Then Aaron went ahead and created it. "People's lives could be saved if they knew about a fire before it spread too far," says Aaron.

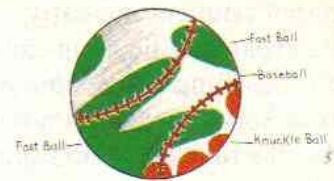
Another fourth grader, Joe Buzzelli from Sewickley, PA, also made a fire detector. He calls it "Pooch on Patrol," and it's for kids to take to bed with

them. "It looks like a stuffed dog," Joe told CONTACT, "but there's a smoke detector inside its stomach. When there's a fire, the smoke detector goes off. And the dog's eyes start to blink, and music in the detector wakes you up. The flashing eyes also help parents and fire-fighters find kids through the smoke."

Before thinking up his protective pooch, Joe came up with another idea: curved

(Story continued on page 22.)

The Pitcher's Helper



Inventors' diagrams

Justin Hutton:

shows how to throw different pitches.



Ring! Aaron Lademan's alarming invention—"Blaze Buster"—may help save lives.

Nathan Matter:

magnetic bracelet holds nails and tacks.

The Handy Helper



Rube Goldberg's cartoons appeared in newspapers during the early 1900's. In his cartoons, he created ridiculous contraptions for doing simple things. We came up with our own Rube Goldberg invention—a machine that turns on a TV. It's for the world's laziest couch potato.

LOONEY

A CONTACT PUZZ



TUNER

ZLE POSTER

THE PUZZLE: We took out four pieces from this machine and left the areas blank. The machine won't work until its pieces are put back in the right place. Get this kooky contraption going: Put back each piece (located below the machine) into its correct space. A description of how the machine works is on the Did It page.

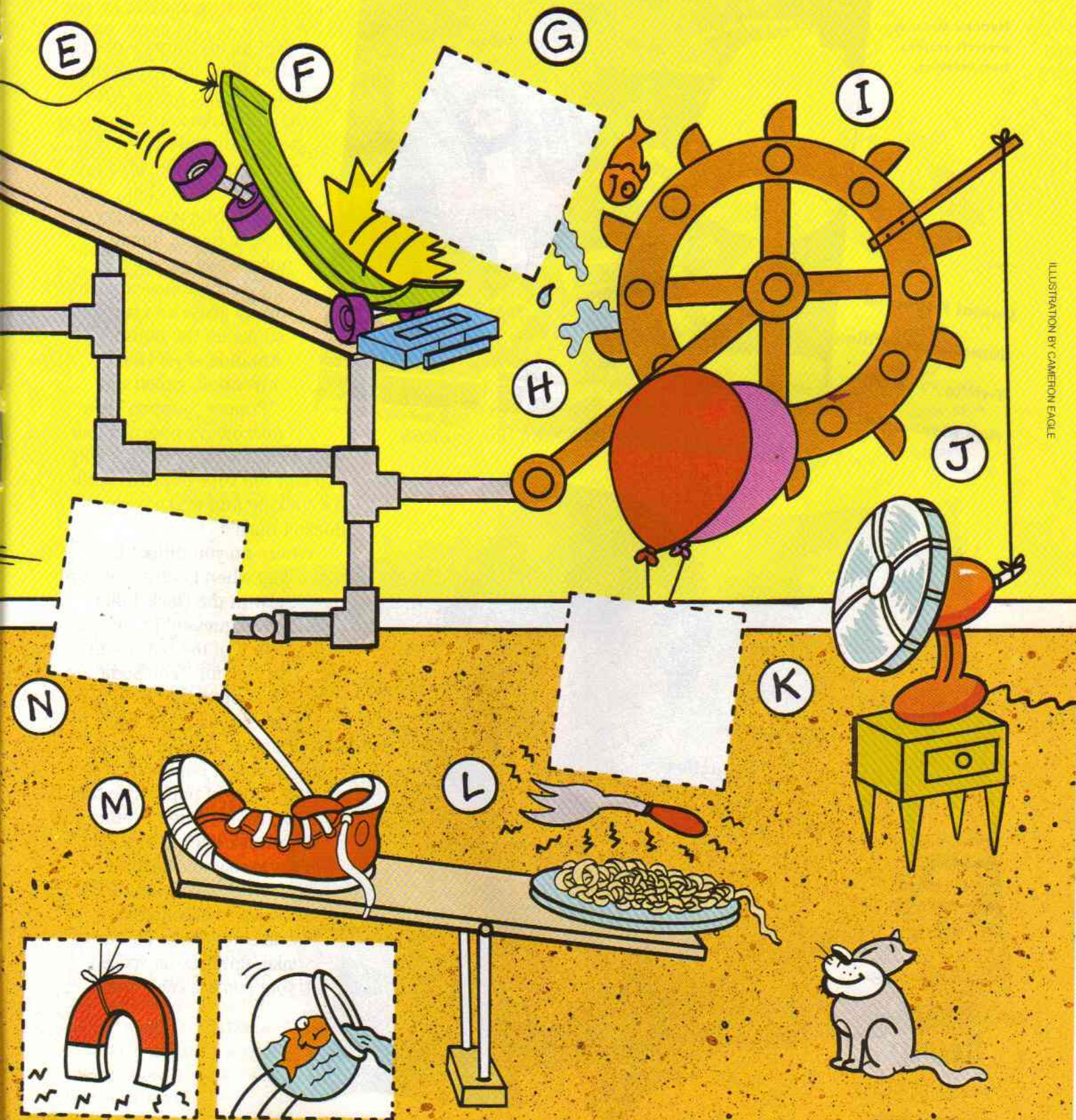


ILLUSTRATION BY CAMERON EAGLE

Crayons for Keeps



Matthew McCurdy:
protects crayons
from breaking.

Daniel Reynolds
demonstrates his
T-riffic "Tea Stir-
ring Machine."



**The "Hot
Sipper"** is
perfect for
Erica Gorochow's
favorite drink:
hot chocolate.

Thomas Black:
disposable liner
that fits in a
lawn mower bag.



(Story continued from page 19.)
toothpicks. "So you can pick the
back of your teeth," he says.
"But I entered 'Pooch on
Patrol' because it would save
lives. All the toothpicks
would do is pick teeth!"

It Can Happen Anywhere

Not all inventors work in
gadget-filled labs—like the
dad in *Honey, I Blew Up
the Kid!* Take seventh
grader Amanda Broz. She
came up with the idea for
her invention in her
kitchen. She was angry
about a bag of burnt
microwave popcorn.

"Burnt popcorn tastes
pretty gross and it really
stinks up the house,"
Amanda says. Her
invention, called the
"Popper Stopper," is a
microwave popcorn bag
with a clear window. "This way
you can see your popcorn while
it's cooking and make sure it
doesn't burn."

Where do you think Clint
Lenz was when he dreamed up
the "Glow in the Dark Toilet
Seat"? You guessed it! He was
coming out of the bathroom.

The idea for "The Soda
Saver" popped into Kyle Lap-
kewych's head as he was
leaving for vacation. "Just
before I left, I opened a two-
liter bottle of pop," Kyle told
CONTACT. "When I returned
one week later it was flat." How
to solve the bubble trouble?
Kyle used an air valve to blow
up a balloon inside a soda
bottle. "Once the balloon
takes up all the air space,
your pop will keep fresh



and fizzy," explains Kyle.

Erica Gorocho, 8, thought up her invention while visiting her father in the hospital. Called "Hot Sippers," it's a double straw that helps cool down a hot liquid by the time it gets to your mouth.

"It's helpful to people in the hospital who can't eat soup lying down," says Erica. "The inner straw is lined with beads. And when you put the beads in the refrigerator, they trap the cool air. Then when a person sips something hot, the beads in the outer tube cool down the liquid."

A What-Cha-Ma-Call-It!

All of the gizmos and gadgets on display in Washington, DC, were a big hit. But one invention, designed by Daniel Reynolds, really created a stir: the "Tea Stirring Machine." This kooky contraption won a special Rube Goldberg Award. Rube Goldberg was a cartoonist who designed wacky machines to do simple things. And does Daniel's invention ever fit this description!

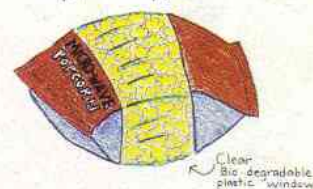
Here's how it works: Water pours from a hose and fills up little paper cups. The cups get weighted down and start turning the waterwheel. As the wheel spins, it makes a rubber band turn a rod, which makes the spoon stir your tea!

And once in a while—oops!—something goofs up. "Sometimes the water misses a cup and it drips all over the place," confesses the sixth-grade inventor. "But most of the time it gets the job done."

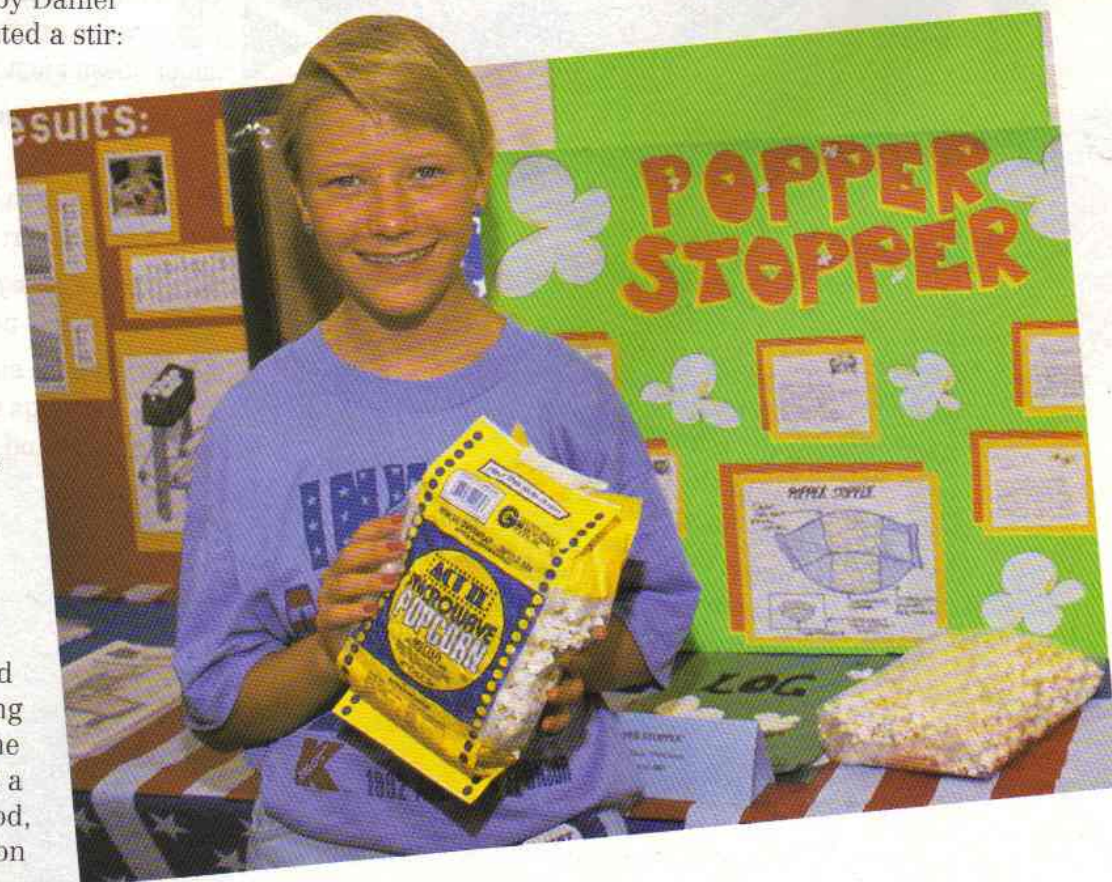
What's next after winning the Invent America! contest? Who knows? Maybe some of the young inventors have already invented stuff that Americans just can't live without. But when CONTACT asked the kids if they had any ideas for future inventions—their lips were sealed! ♦

If you're interested in taking part in Invent America!, ask your teacher to write for a starter kit to: Invent America!, Dept. GH92, 510 King Street, Suite 420, Alexandria, VA 22314. The kit is free, but you have to send \$2.95 for postage and handling.

Popper Stopper



Amanda Broz's invention lets you see when your popcorn is done. Above is a drawing of her invention.



WHAT DO YOU

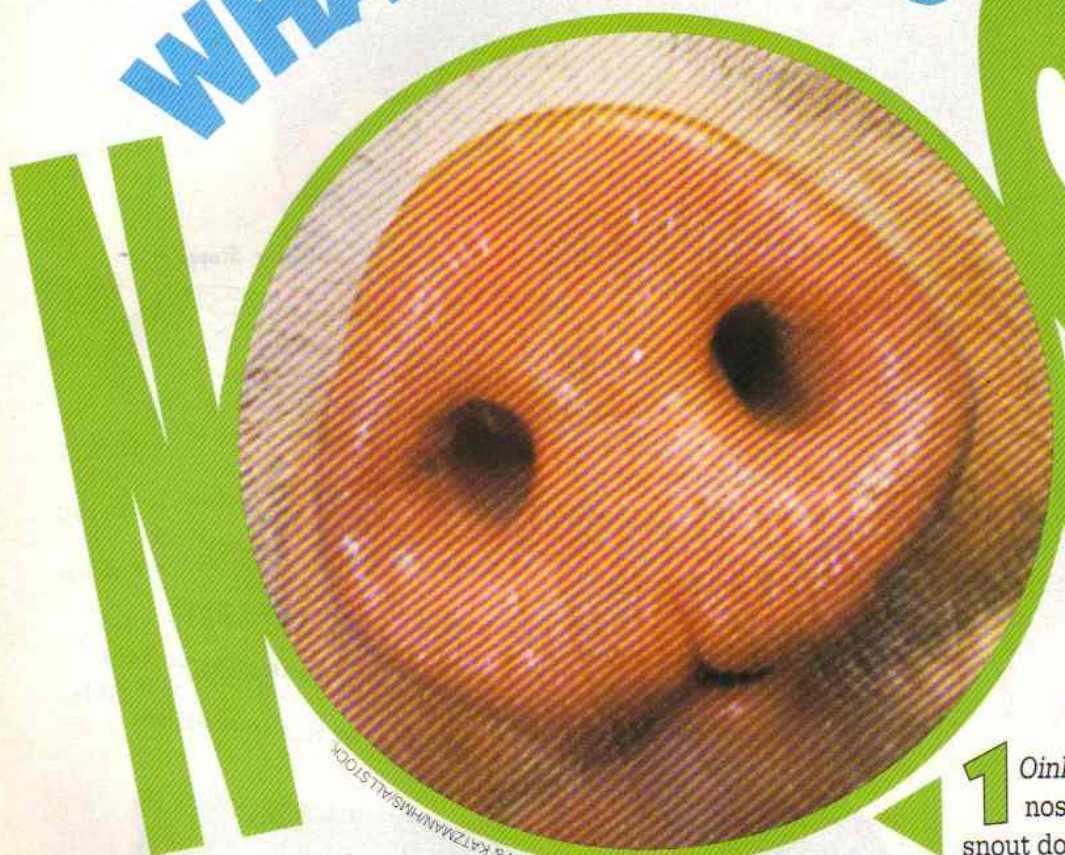


PHOTO © FERGUSON & KATZMAN/HMS/ALISTOCK

USE?

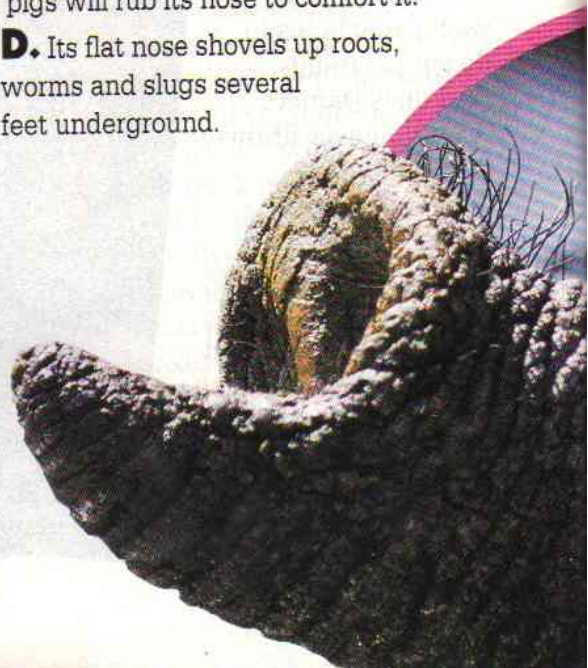
By Elizabeth Vitton

Sharks use it to detect a drop of blood hundreds of yards away. Salmon use it to find their way back home thousands of miles away. And bats use it like a megaphone to send out high-pitched sounds. What do they use? Their noses!

Check out the schnozzes on these seven animals. For each creature, three statements are true—and one is false. Can you find the false ones? The answers—which may surprise you—are upside down at the bottom of page 26.

1 Oink! This barnyard animal uses its nose to grunt and squeal. But a pig's snout doesn't just raise a stink.

- A.** Male pigs snort out a special "song" to attract females.
- B.** Pigs use their snouts like dustbusters to suck mud and dirt off each other.
- C.** Once a lost piglet is found, the other pigs will rub its nose to comfort it.
- D.** Its flat nose shovels up roots, worms and slugs several feet underground.





2

This nose belongs to the ultimate dune buggy: a camel! Since its nostrils shut in desert storms, a camel never gets sand up its nose. And believe it or not...

- A.** It shuts off its nose in snow and ice storms, too.
- B.** To save water, moisture from a camel's breath collects on its upper lip.
- C.** It smells water several miles away.
- D.** When it inhales, thousands of nose hairs sway like a fan to cool it off.

3

Look closely—but not too closely—and you'll see two tiny holes in the middle of the rattler's nose. These nostrils help it breathe.

- A.** But it can't smell with its nostrils.
- B.** Snakes use their tongues to pick up scents—flicking them in and out to "taste" the air.
- C.** Its smelling organ is on the roof of its mouth.
- D.** Dozens of slimy suction cups on a snake's belly help odors cling to it as it slithers along.



PHOTO © JOHN CANICAL/ISTOCK/STACK & ASSOC

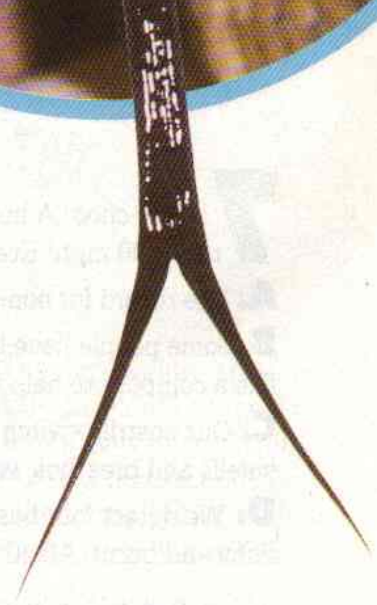
4

Slurp! An elephant's hose of a nose holds 30 gallons of water. But its trunk is more than just a straw.

- A.** An elephant can use it to pick up objects as heavy as 600 pounds.
- B.** Mom elephants use their trunks to "spank" their naughty babies.
- C.** Its trunk is strong. An elephant can even balance on it—upside down.
- D.** The "fingertips" on the end of a trunk are so flexible, they can pluck a dime off the floor.



PHOTO © M. P. KAHN/PHOTO RESEARCHERS



5 What a honker! Some proboscis (say: pro-BAHS-is) monkeys have noses up to four inches long.

A. Zoo surgeons will give the monkey a nose job if its long nose gets in the way of eating.

B. Female proboscis monkeys honk when they're happy.

C. The nose of a male proboscis monkey keeps growing its entire life.

D. Female proboscis monkeys choose the longest-nosed males for mates.

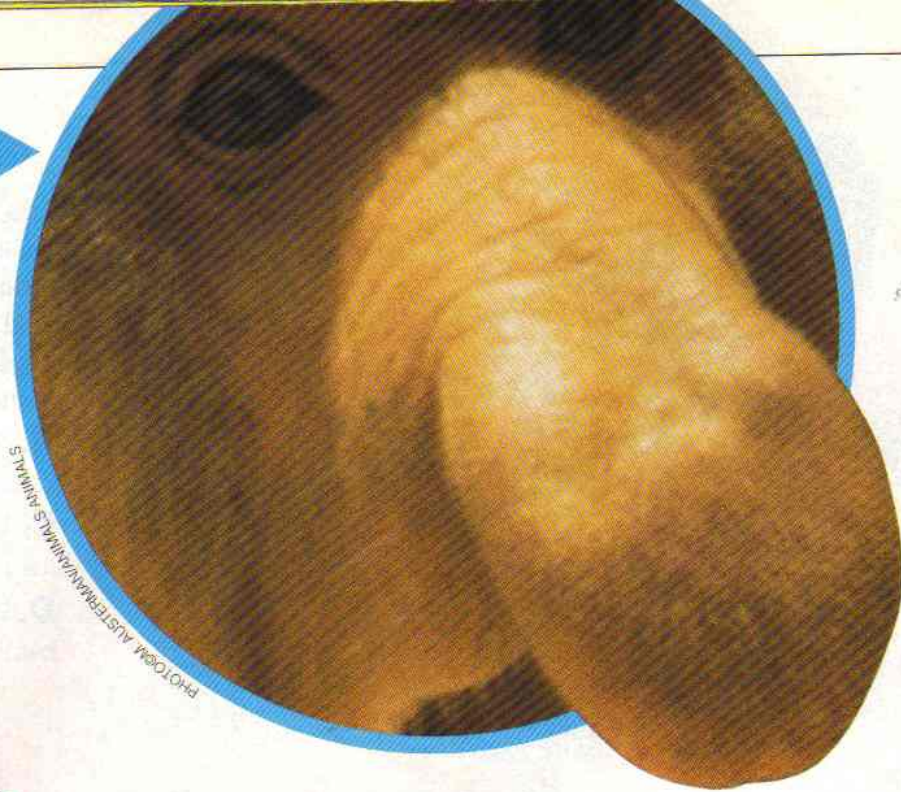


PHOTO © AUSTIN/ANIMALS ANIMALS



PHOTO © ROBERT PEARCY/ANIMALS ANIMALS

6 What a snoop! The champion canine sniffer is the bloodhound. It is so sharp...

A. It can pick up the scent of a six-week-old human fingerprint.

B. It's able to smell a doggie bag under 10 feet of water.

C. It can follow the scent of skin flakes that shed off a moving person.

D. It can track you by smelling the sweat that seeps through your shoes.

7 Ahhh-choo! A human sneeze travels more than 100 mph! Even more mind blowing is...

A. The record for non-stop sneezing: 977 days.

B. Some people have iron in their noses that acts like a compass to help them find their direction.

C. Our nostrils switch off every four hours: One smells and breathes, while the other rests.

D. We detect four basic smells: sweet, stinky, fishy and burnt. All other odors combine them.

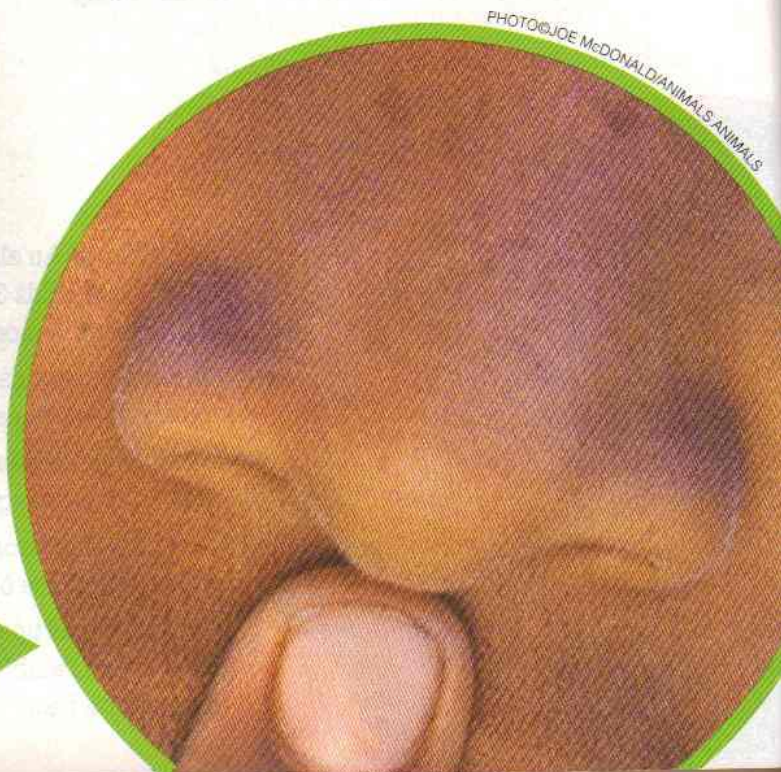


PHOTO © JOE McDONALD/ANIMALS ANIMALS

Answers: 1. b, 2. d, 3. d, 4. c, 5. a, 6. b, 7. d



CONTACT

LENS

MAKING WAVES

Look out! Lighthouse keeper Theodore Malgorn braves the storm along the coast of France. He calmly looks out as 36-foot waves tower around the stone lighthouse. "I had just a few seconds to get back inside," he remembers. "But I like it when the sea kicks up. Things get slow in good weather."

THE TIME TEAM

Double Trouble

By Curtis Slepian

"Yo! Wilson! Lose some weight, fatso!"

Alex Wilson was standing in a circle of snickering faces. One of the faces belonged to Sean Nolan. Sean laughed as a classmate made fun of the overweight Wilson.

An angry Jenny Lopez watched the scene. She grabbed Sean's arm and started scolding him. "Sean, it's not right to treat Alex like that!"

Sean got defensive. "Hey, he should expect maximum abuse."

Jenny wagged a finger in his face. "You wouldn't like it if someone made fun of you."

"It'll never happen," said Sean. "I'm perfect."

A week later, Sean wasn't acting so cool. "Can't I please go on a time trip with you?" he was pleading with Jenny.

Jenny owned the world's only time machine. It was a tachyon device she had made for a school science fair. By accident, the machine allowed them to travel to the past or future.

Jenny looked at the begging Sean and said, "I'm going to be nicer to you than you were to Alex. Even though you're a jerk, you

can go on a trip with me."

The next day, with Sean in her room, Jenny pressed the button on the tachyon machine. After a flash of light and a gust of air, the teens found themselves standing in a large city. From the looks of things, the teens knew right away they had traveled into the future. But how far?

A pair of twin girls stopped to stare at the teens. The twins wore clothes that kept changing color and shape. "Where'd you get dead clothes?" one twin asked Sean.

"My jeans and T-shirt are hot," he replied.

The other twin shook her head. "Maybe non-living clothes like yours will be the next fad in 2268."

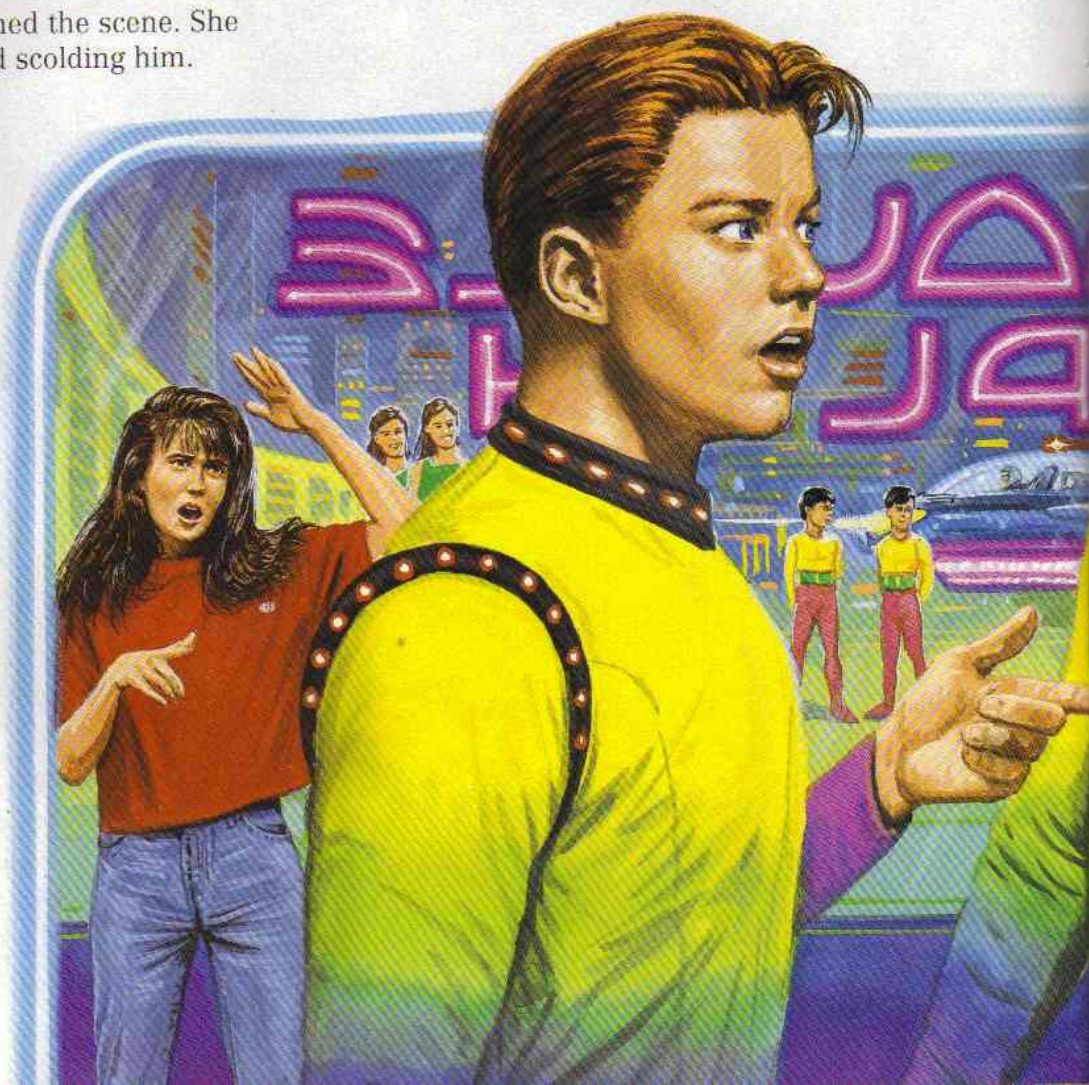
The other twin smirked, "You see all kinds of weirdness in Los Angeles!"

The twins walked off.

Los Angeles in the 23rd century had changed a lot. But one thing struck Jenny. "Isn't it amazing how many twins there are here?"

"Yeah," answered Sean. "And there also seem to be copy stores on every block. Photocopying seems pretty low-tech for the 23rd century."

They passed a store called "Double Play."



Standing at the entrance was a salesman. He beckoned to the teens to enter. "What the heck," said Sean. "Let's take a look."

Copy Cat

Inside the store, the salesman said to Sean, "My lucky man, you're our first customer! We're giving you a free copy!"

"Copy of what?" asked Sean. The salesman laughed as if this were a big joke and pulled out scissors. He cut off a hair on Sean's head. "Hey," yelled Sean. "I don't want a haircut."

The salesman chuckled and went into the back of the store. He returned, holding futuristic pants, shirts and shoes. "Take these free of charge. You'll be a perfect match."

Sean was mystified, but he put on the clothes. "Cool," he said looking in a mirror.

A few minutes later, the salesman returned with another person. The person was...Sean!

"What's going on?" gasped Sean.

The salesman snapped his fingers. "I forgot the tag."

Sean walked up to his double. The double, who wore the same clothes as Sean, stared back,

just as puzzled. Meanwhile, the salesman returned with a metal bracelet. He placed it around Sean's wrist and snapped it closed.

"What's this?" said Sean. "Why'd you put it on my wrist?" He couldn't remove it.

"That's your clone tag," the salesman sniffed. "Clones are required to wear them."

"I'm no clone!" said Sean. He turned to Jenny. "What's a clone?"

Jenny's eyes opened wide. "A clone is an exact copy of something. These copy shops aren't for duplicating papers—they're for duplicating people! They must have made your double by using the genetic material in your hair."

Sean pointed to his double. "*He's* the clone!"

"Nonsense. I don't make mistakes," huffed the salesman. He handed some papers to Sean's clone. "Your clone's registration papers, sir. Remember, carry them at all times or you risk a fine or the jailing of your duplicate."

"Jenny," pleaded Sean, "tell him I'm no clone!"

Jenny looked confused. "I can't tell you apart. You both look identical!"

Sean turned to his clone. "Tell them I'm Sean."

Sean's clone smiled. "Hey, dude, I'm the real Sean. I'll prove it: Jenny, don't we go to Albert Einstein High School?"

Sean sputtered, "If he's my clone, we're alike in every way—even our memories."

"They're *my* memories," laughed Sean's clone.

"You're a liar!" shouted Sean.

"Prove it, cloney the clown," sneered the clone.

The salesman grabbed Sean's arm. "Clone, I must register you in the computer."


In a panic, Sean ran out of the store. He got about 10 steps before a cop stopped him. "Hey, clone, where're your papers?"

"I'm not a clone," sputtered Sean.

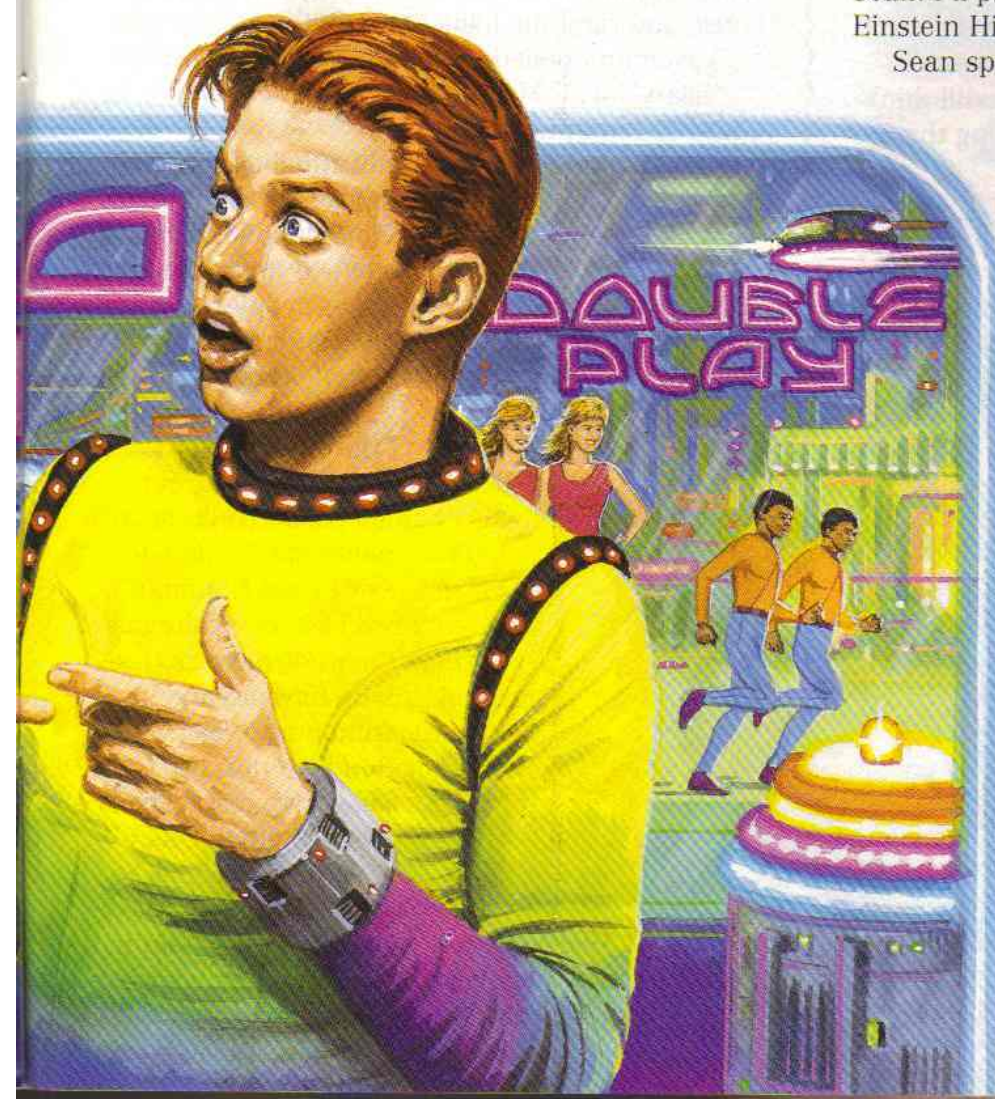
"Then what's that clone tag on your wrist?" snarled the cop. "Give me your name, dupe."

"Sean Nolan."

The cop took out a small computer and punched the buttons.

A crowd had gathered to watch. A little girl pointed at Sean and said, "Mommy, look at the dumb duplicate." 

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB LARKIN



Another person called out, "He looks like a crummy copy to me." Everyone snickered.

The cop studied his computer's readout. "There's no Sean Nolan—original or dupe—registered in North America. You'd better come with me, cloneboy."

"Hey, I have my rights," cried Sean.

The cop chuckled. "Clones have no rights!"

The cop took Sean to a police station. At the front desk, the sergeant barked, "Throw him in a holding cell."

On the way, prisoners yelled things at Sean: "Hey, fakeboy." "He ain't a real human." "Copycat!"

Sean waited in a cell, feeling terrible. Everyone was treating him like dirt. Why were they picking on him?

Clone Ranger

A man arrived. "Mr. Nolan, I'm Mr. Hammer. I put unregistered and lost clones to work."

"Doing what?" asked Sean.

"Jobs real humans won't do," replied Hammer.

"You treat clones like pets or something," said Sean. "But aren't they just as good as originals?"

"Sure," said Hammer. "But originals still think they're superior. So they make laws giving them power over imitations."

"That doesn't seem right," murmured Sean.

"No, it isn't," whispered Hammer. He leaned over to Sean and handed him a card. "Stay close to me and do as I say."

Sean didn't know what was going on.

Hammer nodded to a guard and took Sean upstairs. At a stairway landing, Hammer opened a side door and pushed Sean through it. "Go!" he hissed. "See the people at the address on the card. They'll help you."

Sean ran through the door. Behind him, he heard Hammer shouting, "The clone escaped!"

Sean ran until he was on an empty side street. What to do? Try to get back to Jenny and return to the past? But she still might think he was a clone. Meanwhile, the police were searching for him.

Sean yanked down his shirtsleeve to cover his tag. Then he looked at the address on the card. He asked a passerby for directions. "That's Beverly Hills," said the man. "It's a bad part of town. I'll give you a lift in my grav-car."

Two minutes later, Sean got out of the car. He walked up to the entrance of a large, rundown house and rang the bell.

A woman opened the door. "Who are you?"

"Sean Nolan. Mr. Hammer gave me your address. I'm in trouble."

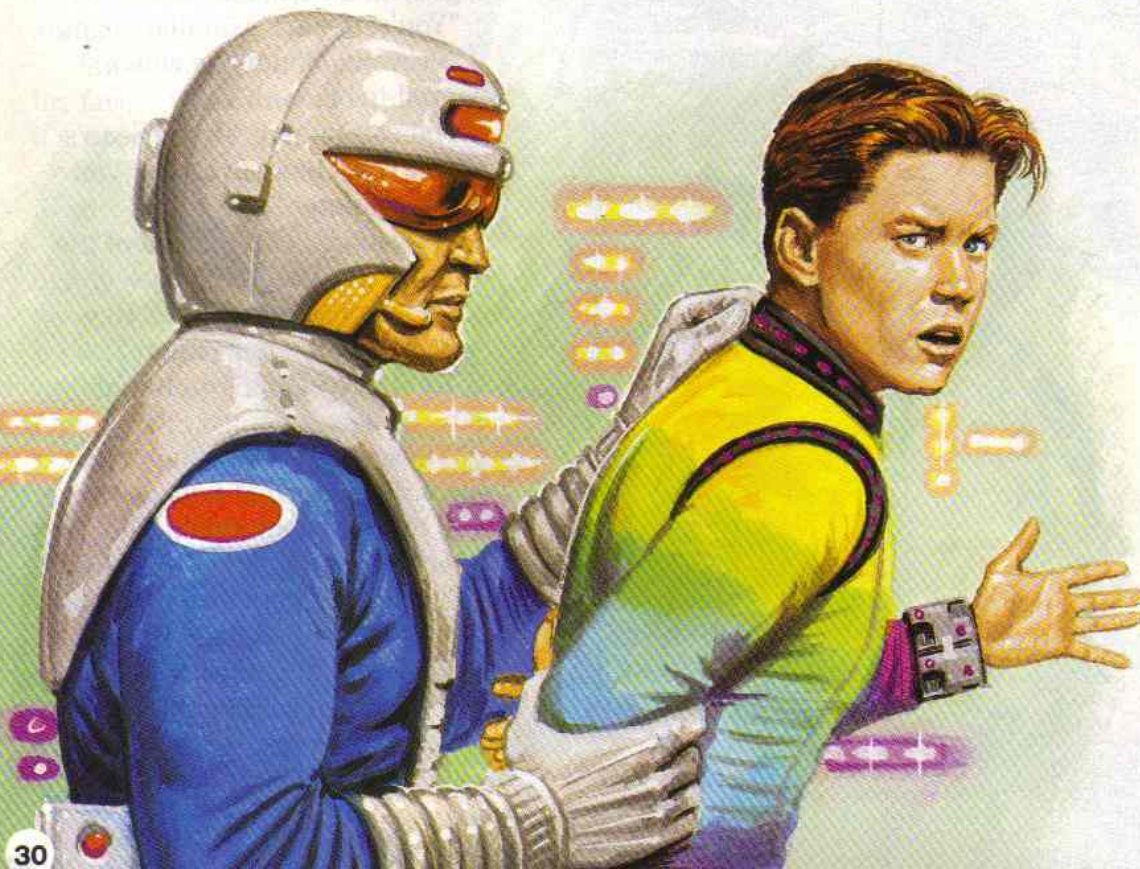
"My computer says you're wanted by the police. My name's Violet. Come in." Sean stepped into a room full of people.

"Who are you guys?" asked Sean.

A man spoke up. "How do we know we're not being set up. Nolan could be a police spy."

"I trust Hammer," said Violet, smiling at Sean. "We are clones who have escaped from our masters. We don't want to be jailed. We just want to live as humans, as first-class citizens."

Sean nodded, wondering if he should tell Violet that he wasn't a clone. He decided not to.



Violet continued. "Our network takes in any clone who wishes to join us. If we're caught, we'll be sent to work farms. Or prison."

Sean looked at Violet's wrist. "You don't have a tag. I thought they couldn't come off."

Violet rubbed her wrist absent-mindedly. "They can't be cut off: The bracelets are hollow, and inside is a deadly acid. But an expert locksmith has learned how to open them."

"Can he help me?" asked Sean.

"Yes," smiled Violet. "I'll take you to him."

Violet drove Sean to a downtown office building. The locksmith was on the 190th floor.

As Sean sweated, the locksmith worked with a laser to open the lock mechanism. An hour later, the bracelet fell off.

Downstairs with Violet, Sean was about to step into her grav-van when the two heard footsteps. Violet whispered, "It's a clone tracer. Run, Sean. Get out of here!"

Sean ran, never once turning around. He headed towards the copy store that cloned him. But on the way, he thought, "What if Jenny has already returned to the past with my clone? I'll be stuck here forever, an outlaw."

The copy store was closed. "Great. Now what do I do?" wondered Sean.

Twice As Nice

"Hey, Sean!" Sean heard an unfamiliar voice—his own. Sean's clone had called his name. The clone and Jenny were running up to him.

Jenny gulped, "I was afraid to go home until I was sure who was Sean and who was the clone. I still can't tell you guys apart."

Sean hung his head. "Jenny, go back with the clone. He's just as human as I am."

Then, amazingly, Sean's clone also hung *his* head. "Okay, okay, I'm a clone. He's the real Sean. Go back with him."

Jenny was shocked by this confession. "Why didn't you tell me right away?"

"You know Sean," laughed the clone. "It takes awhile before his conscience kicks in."

Jenny looked at the twin Seans. "You should

both come back with me to the 20th century."

"Impossible," said Sean's clone. "My existence there will cause problems. Go back with Sean."

Sean handed Hammer's card to his clone, and said, "Go to this address. The people there are fighting for clones. They need your help."

"Good luck," said Sean's clone sadly. "I'll miss you, Jenny. Sean knows how much."

Sean and his clone both blushed.

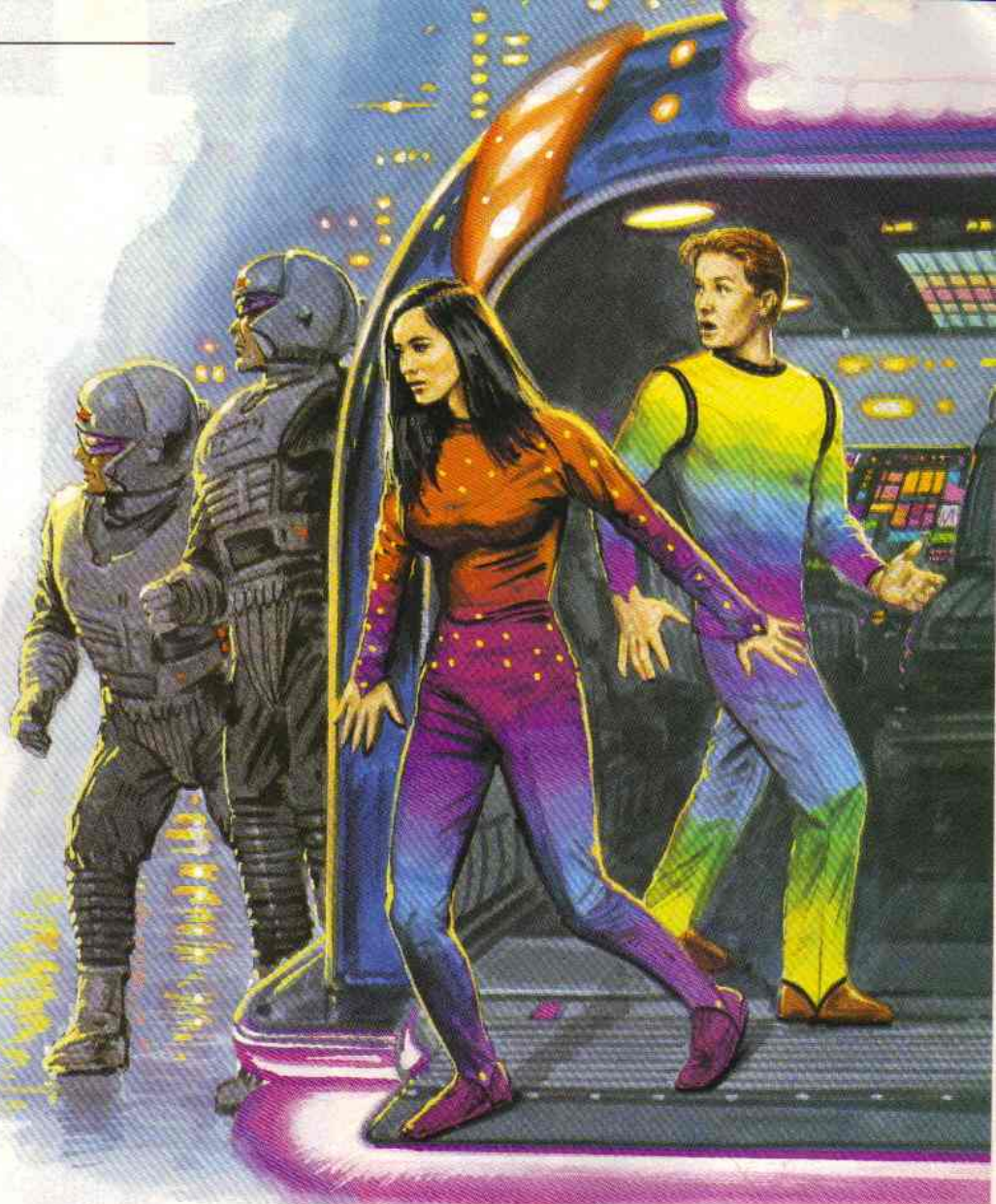
Jenny pressed the button on her tachyon machine. An instant later, both teens were in Jenny's house.

After Sean described to Jenny his adventures as a clone, he said, "Now I know what it's like to have people make fun of you and mistreat you. All because they think they're hot stuff and you're not."

Jenny said, "Then you know how Alex felt when you and your friends made fun of *him*."

Sean nodded. "I think I owe Alex an apology."

Jenny laughed. "And I think one Sean in this world is enough." ♦





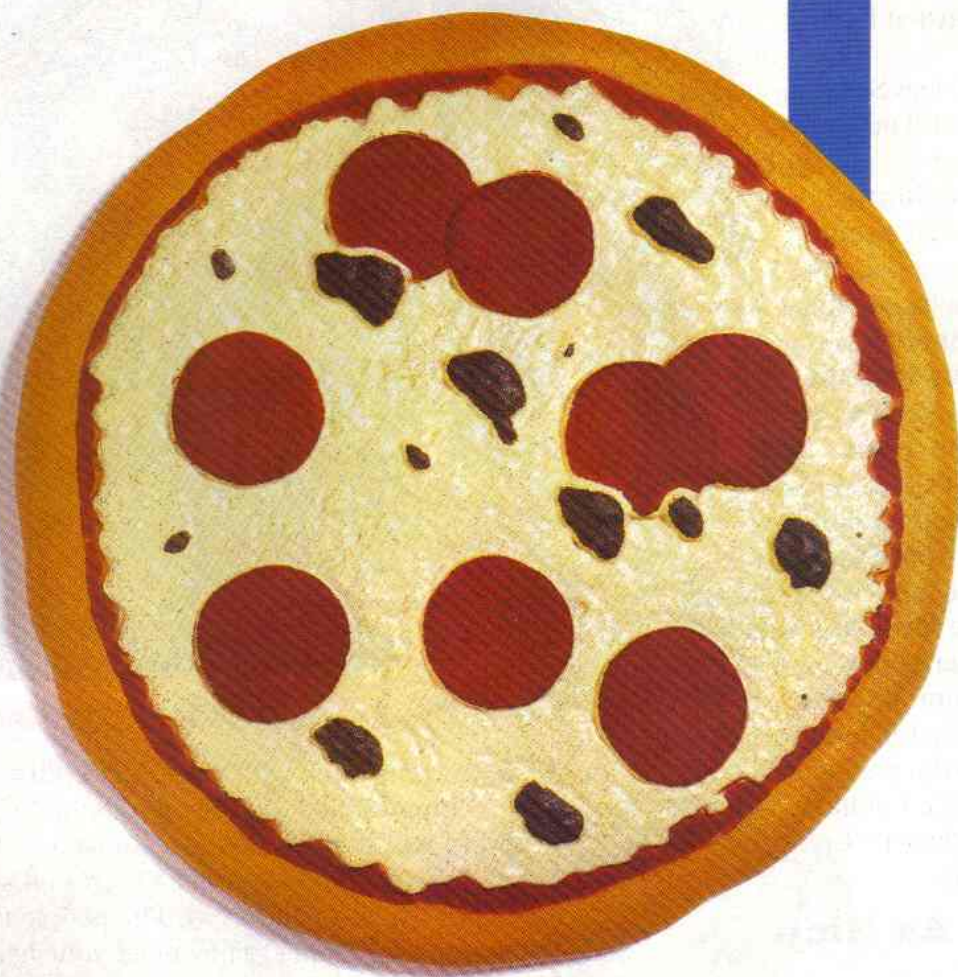
S Q U A R E O N E S U P E R T I C K Y

DON'T GET STUCK DOING OUR...

P

U

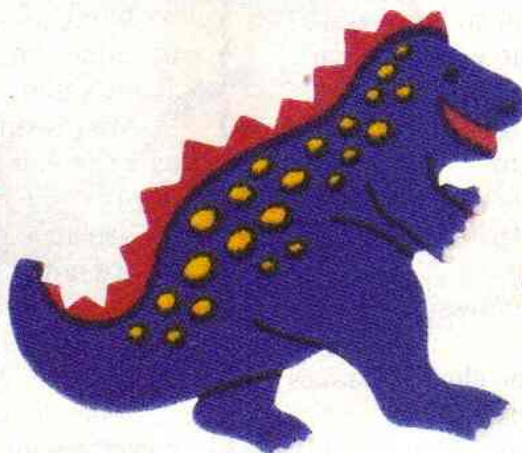
By Beth Chayet



◀ The Slice is Right

Can you cut this pizza magnet into eight pieces, using only three cuts? The pieces don't have to be equal in size.
HINT: One of the cuts is not a straight line.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DENNIS MOSNER



Z Z L E S



Button Up

Place four buttons in the empty squares—only one button per square. Here's the challenge: Place them so you don't have three buttons in any row (horizontally, vertically or diagonally).

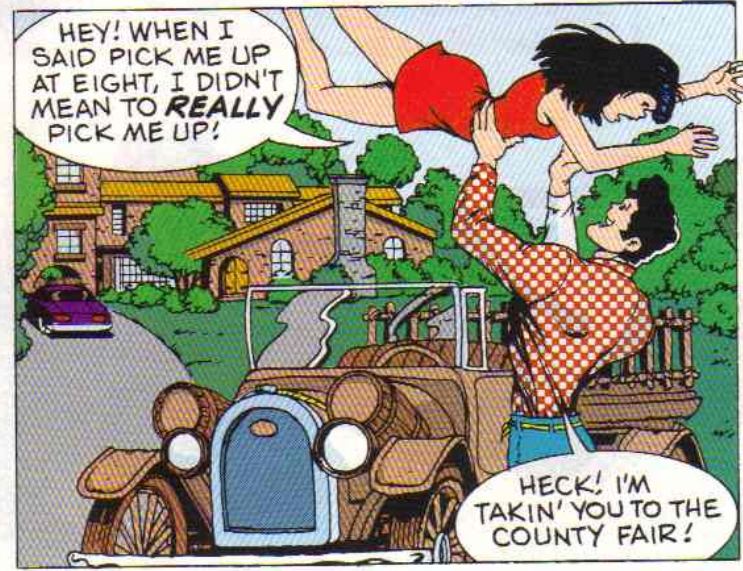
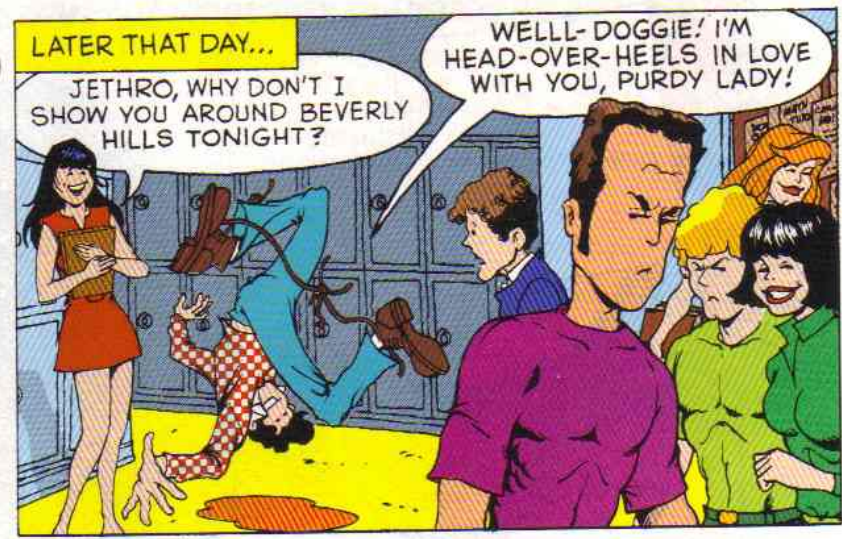
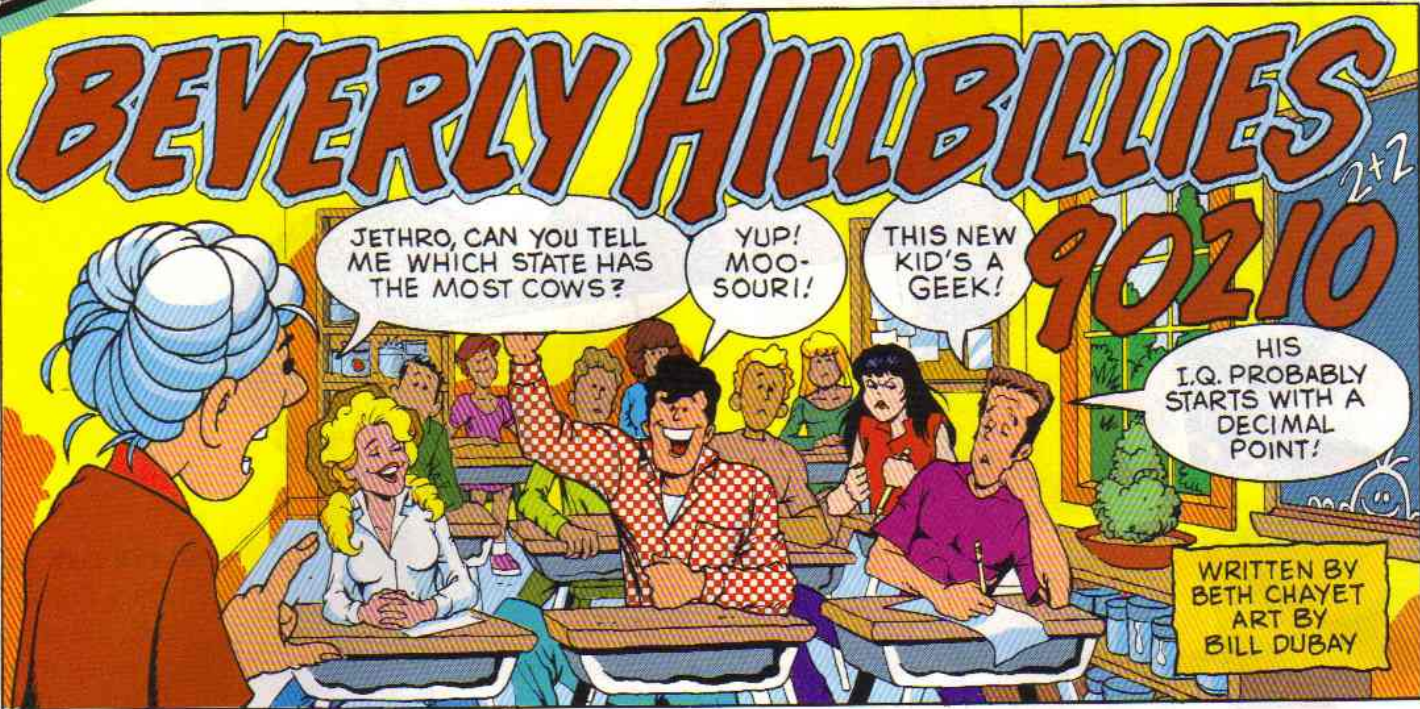
Answers on the Did It page.

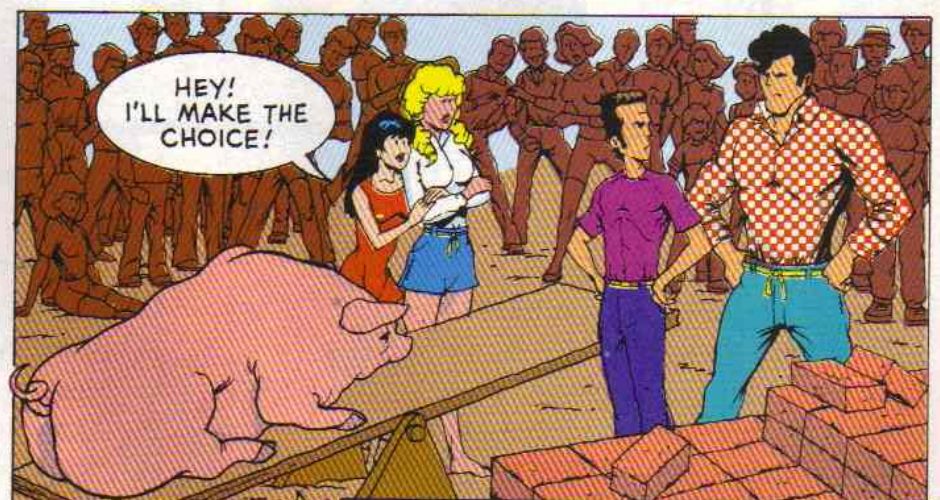
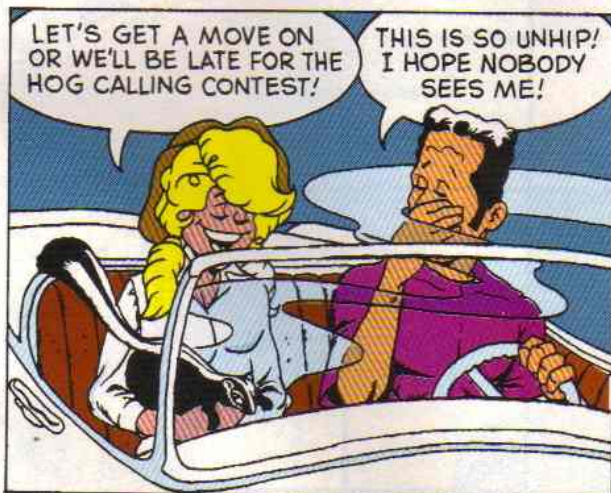
Sticky Situation

Marlene, Greg, Rachel and Doug have a sticker collection. Marlene and Greg have the dinosaur and the fish stickers. Greg and Rachel have the fish and the troll stickers. Doug has the fire truck and the dinosaur stickers. And Marlene also has the fire truck sticker.

Which sticker *doesn't* Greg have? Who has the fire truck sticker but not the fish sticker?







BRENDA WILL DATE THE MAN WHO ANSWERS THE FOLLOWING QUESTION CORRECTLY:

HOW MANY FOUR-OUNCE BRICKS ARE NEEDED TO BALANCE THE 36-POUND HOG?

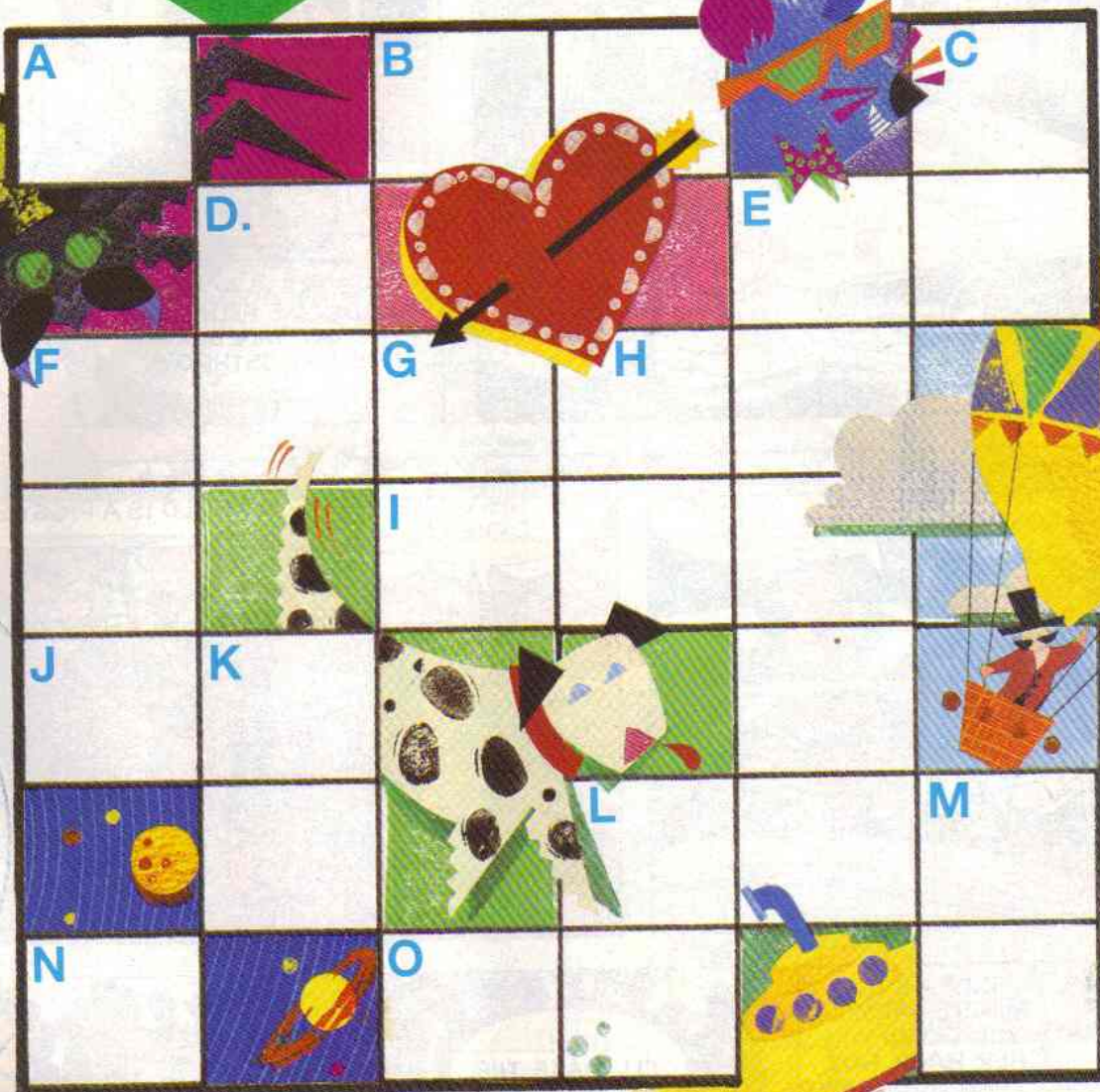
JETHRO'S ANSWER IS NINE! DYLAN'S IS 144! WHO WILL BRENDA CHOOSE AS HER BOYFRIEND?

COUNT DOWN!

A Number Crossword Puzzle

Without numbers, the clues below mean zero.
Can you fill in each blank with the correct number?
Then write the number in the lettered spaces on the puzzle.

Answers are on the Did It page.



ACROSS

- A. Nursery rhyme: "The ___ Little Pigs"
- B. ___ states in the United States
- C. Nursery rhyme: "___ Blind Mice"
- D. A spider has ___ legs
- E. ___ letters in the alphabet
- F. TV show: *Beverly Hills*, ___
- I. ___ dimes in \$14.00
- J. Movie: *Friday the ___th*
- L. Movie: ___ *Dalmations*
- N. ___ planets in our solar system
- O. ___ hours in a day

DOWN

- A. TV show: ___ *Is Company*
- C. ___ inches in a yard
- D. Book: *Around the World in ___ Days*
- E. Movie: ___ *Leagues Under the Sea*
- F. TV show: *Rescue* ___
- G. TV show: ___ *Jump Street*
- H. Date: St. Valentine's Day, February ___
- K. TV show: ___ *something*
- L. ___ days in two weeks
- M. Song: "___ Little Indians"

CONTACT CONTEST

O SAY CAN YOU C?

It's party time!

We're not just celebrating New Year's Eve. We're also celebrating a new feature in CONTACT. Beginning this month, each issue will have a contest. And the contest winners will receive super prizes.

The Contest:

Our first contest is really something to C. It's a picture of a New Year's Eve party.

The object of the contest is to find 30 things in the scene that begin with the letter C.

How to Enter:

Send us your list of C-words. Be sure to include your name, address and age. In case of a tie, winners will be chosen by a random drawing.

All entries must be postmarked by January 25, 1993. Contest entries become the property of CTW and cannot be returned.

The decision of the judges is final.

Send your list of C-words to:

O Say Can You C?
3-2-1 CONTACT Magazine
P.O. Box 40
Vernon, NJ 07462

Grand Prize:

An amazing home planetarium from Uncle Milton's Super Science

Second Prize:

An awesome Illusion Kaleidoscope

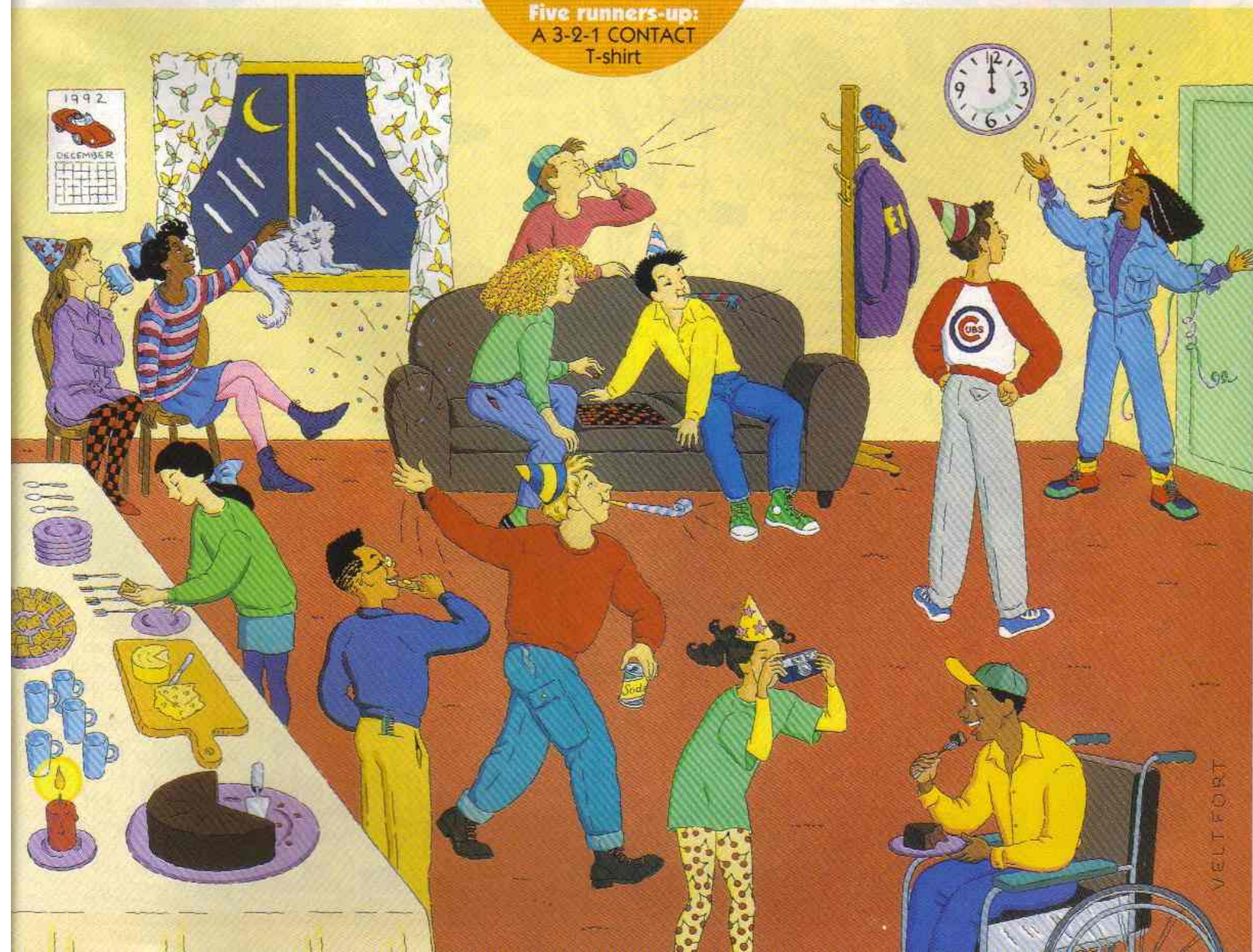
Third Prize:

A mind-boggling ball puzzle

Five runners-up:

A 3-2-1 CONTACT T-shirt

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA VELLFORT



VELLFORT

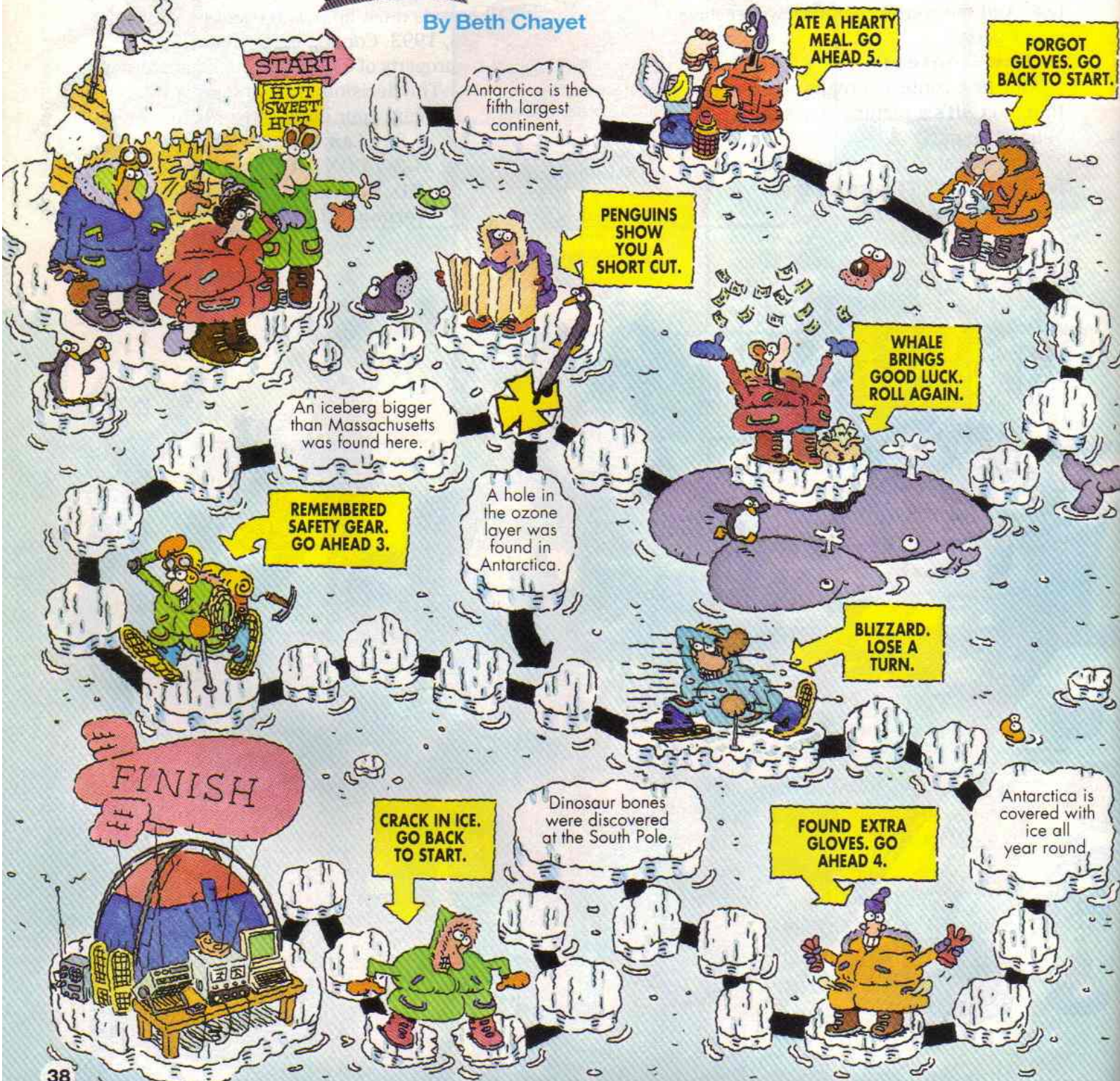
EXTRA

By Beth Chayet

ALL CRACKED UP

I.C. Berg and her crew are all broken up. The ice floe they are living on in Antarctica just cracked into pieces. And now their research equipment is floating away. Help lead the crew to their equipment.

To start, place a small button on the base camp for each player. Each turn, roll a die and move forward that many spaces. Follow the directions on the space where you land. The first player to rescue the equipment is the winner.

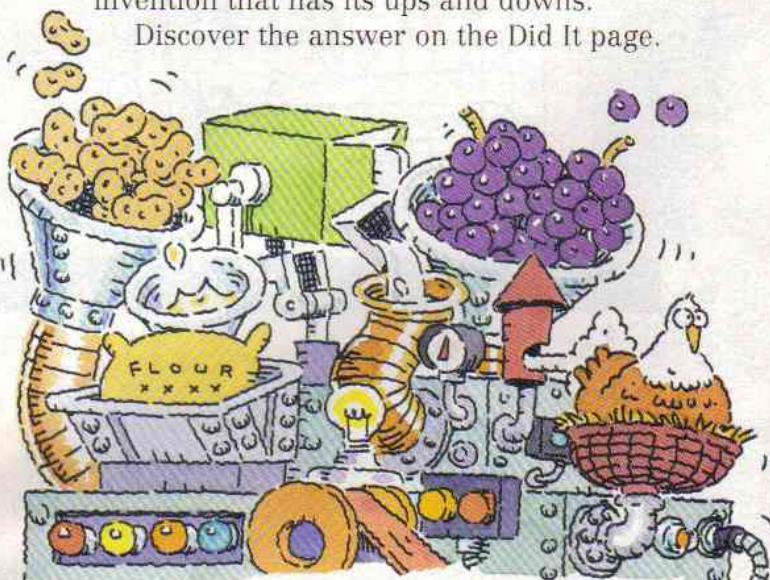


EUREKA!

Tomassina Edison's latest invention turned out to be a word search. It doesn't do much, but it's fun to solve. Hidden in the word search are 16 words. They're all great inventions that helped change the way we do things. Words go up, down, across and backwards. Use our list to find them.

The leftover letters spell out an important invention that has its ups and downs.

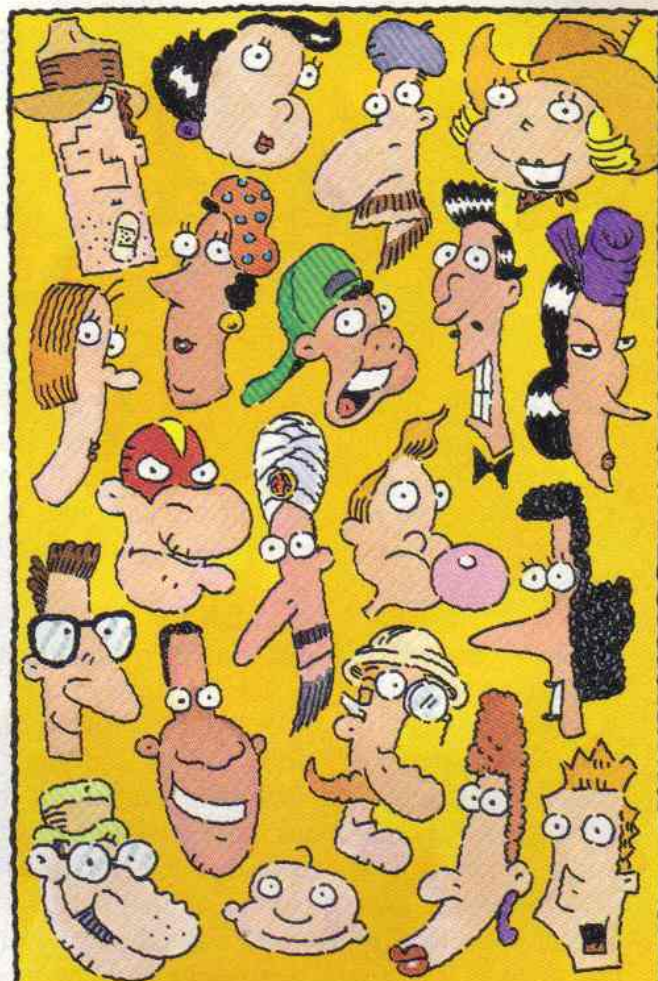
Discover the answer on the Did It page.



ETLNOISIVELETR
RETEMOMREHTEEE
VLATBLUBTHGILS
SEWINGMACHINEA
OSENALPRIARSPL
ICOTTONGINOYHO
DORETUPMOCNAOC
APHONOGRAPHRNA
RETIRWEPTYTRXER

PHONOGRAPH
SEWING MACHINE
THERMOMETER
TYPEWRITER
TELESCOPE
COTTON GIN
TELEVISION
TELEPHONE
LIGHT BULB
AIRPLANE
COMPUTER

RADIO
X RAYS
LASER
IRON
CAR

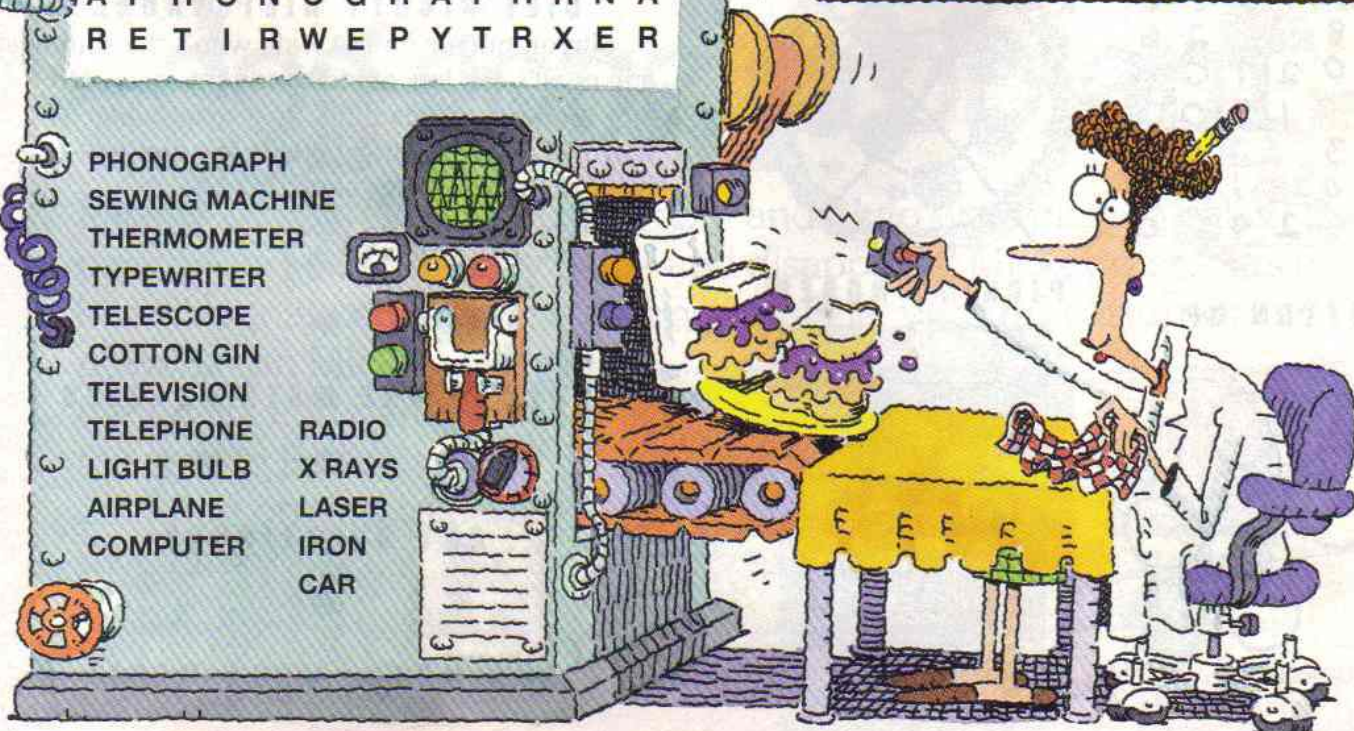


PICKING NOSES

If you have a nose for noses, you'll be able to solve this puzzle. Can you sniff out the two people that have identical noses?

Follow your nose to the Did It page for the answer.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICHARD WESS



Did it

BEVERLY HILLBILLIES 90210

Brenda chose Dylan because his answer (144) is correct. There are 16 ounces to a pound. Since each brick is four ounces, four bricks equals a pound. Multiply four times 36, and you get 144.

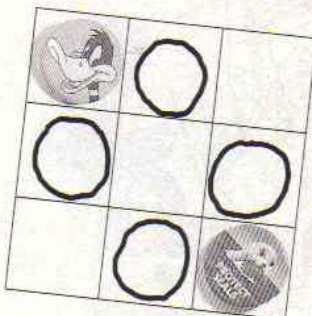
LOONEY TUNER

Through a window someone throws a Frisbee (A). Jumping for Frisbee, dog (B) lands on seesaw (C), making one side go up, causing candle (D) to burn string (E). String breaks, sending skateboard (F) into videocassette. Water in fish-bowl (G) spills onto water wheel (H), turning it and pulling string (I), which switches on fan (J). This blows balloons over plate of spaghetti. Magnet (K) lifts fork (L) out of spaghetti, lowering sneaker (M). Shoelace stretches and pulls the trigger of rubber dart gun (N), which shoots dart, hitting power button of TV remote control (O), turning on TV.

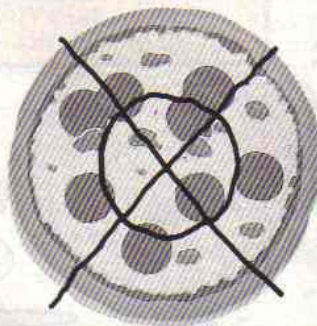
COUNT DOWN

3		5	0		3
	8			2	6
9	0	2	1	0	
1		1	4	0	
1	3			0	
	0		1	0	1
9		2	4		0

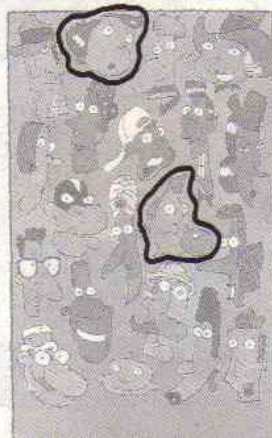
BUTTON UP



THE SLICE IS RIGHT



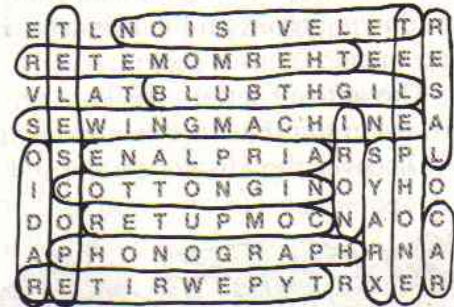
PICKING NOSES



STICKY SITUATION

Greg doesn't have the fire truck sticker. Doug has the fire truck sticker but not the fish sticker.

EUREKA



The leftover letters spell: elevator

NEXT MONTH

Forward march right into an incredible issue of 3-2-1 CONTACT:

UP THE AMAZON

Biting ants, swarming bees, killer caterpillars and fanged fish. These are just a few of the nightmares some adventurers faced going up the Amazon's River of Doubt. We doubt you'll be able to put down the story of their trip.

ANIMAL FARM

You've heard of dairy farms and horse farms. But how about ostrich farms? Or better yet, a leech farm? Check out these and other wild critters that farmers are now raising.

DIET RIGHT? DIET WRONG!

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the slimmest one of all? Ask lots of kids and they'll say, "Not me!" Too many kids think they're fat when they're fine. Find out why kids are dieting—when sometimes they shouldn't be.

PLUS

SQUARE ONE MATH PUZZLES

ANY QUESTIONS?

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!



Mickey has a dog gone problem.

Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy and Pluto were playing ball in the park. Pluto goes after a fly ball—and disappears! Mickey discovers he's been "dognapped" by the evil Emperor Pete. With his costumes and powers, can Mickey survive the peaks and valleys on the way to Pete's Castle? He's counting on you to help save Pluto.



Mickey must hang tight to avoid the giant buzzard.



When lava gives Mickey a hot foot, the spikes could be a problem.



With help from Goofy, Mickey's ready to scale Pete's Peak.



RCA COMPACT
DISC PLAYER
Sell 50 Items



VALTERRA
SKATEBOARD
Sell 16 Items



SUPER
NINTENDO
ENTERTAINMENT
SYSTEM
Sell 73 Items



INTEX "FASHION" INFLATABLE BOAT
Sell 8 Items



INTEX SNOW
'N' SURF TUBE
Sell 8 Items



WILSON TENNIS SET
Sell 13 Items



BEVERLY HILLS 90210 GAME
Sell 11 Items



WESTCLOX DIGITAL
ALARM CLOCK
Sell 7 Items



TIMEX CALCULATOR
ALARM WATCH
Sell 9 Items



G.E. CLOCK RADIO
Sell 11 Items



"POGO TECH"
POGO STICK
Sell 17 Items



BIKE AM/FM STEREO CASSETTE PLAYER
Sell 13 Items



ZAP-IT WATER GUN
Sell 11 Items



BUS TELE-SHOT CAMERA OUTFIT
Sell 10 Items



BEVERLY HILLS
90210 BAG
Sell 9 Items



"WIZ" PERSONAL LOCKER
Sell 13 Items



MASTERPIECE SPRAY ART SET
Sell 11 Items



MRS. GROSSMAN'S
STICKER SET
Sell 14 Items

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THE
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CLOWN TROLL BY RUSS
Sell 9 Items



NIKKO "GUNSLINGER" R/C TRUCK
Sell 13 Items



"SAVED BY THE BELL" GAME
Sell 9 Items



"TOTALLY HAIR" BARBIE
Sell 8 Items



SCATTERGORIES, JR.
GAME
Sell 8 Items



ARGUS "SEE-THRU"
35mm CAMERA
Sell 12 Items



WILSON "MICHAEL
JORDAN"
BASKETBALL
Sell 12 Items



TASCO MICROSCOPE LAB
Sell 12 Items



"ART WORX" ART CENTER
Sell 9 Items



"BEDAZZLER" JEWEL MACHINE
Sell 11 Items



TIMEX "IRONMAN"
CHRONO-ALARM WATCH
Sell 14 Items



TEXSPORT
TWO-PERSON
DOME TENT
Sell
18 Items